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Rutland County Council

Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP Telephone 01572 722577 Email: governance@rutland.gov.uk

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A meeting of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE will be held via Zoom - https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92269475929 on Thursday, 24th February, 2022 commencing at 7.00 pm when it is hoped you will be able to attend.

Yours faithfully

Mark Andrews Chief Executive

Recording of Council Meetings: Any member of the public may film, audio-record, take photographs and use social media to report the proceedings of any meeting that is open to the public. A protocol on this facility is available at www.rutland.gov.uk/my-council/have-your-say/

AGENDA

1) WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

2) RECORD OF MEETING

To confirm the record of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 16th December 2021 and the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 26th January 2022. (Pages 5 - 14)

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Regulations, Members are invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this Agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

4) PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

To receive any petitions, deputations and questions received from Members of the Public in accordance with the provisions of Procedure Rule 216. The total time allowed for this item shall be 30 minutes. Petitions, declarations and questions shall be dealt with in the order in which they are received. Questions may also be submitted at short notice by giving a written copy to the Committee Administrator 15 minutes before the start of the meeting.

The total time allowed for questions at short notice is 15 minutes out of the total time of 30 minutes. Any petitions, deputations and questions that have been submitted with prior formal notice will take precedence over questions submitted at short notice. Any questions that are not considered within the time limit shall receive a written response after the meeting and be the subject of a report to the next meeting.

5) QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

To consider any questions with notice from Members received in accordance with the provisions of Procedure Rules No 218 and No. 218A.

6) NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

To consider any Notices of Motion from Members submitted in accordance with the provisions of Procedure Rule No 219.

7) CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO CALL IN OF A DECISION

To consider any matter referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to call in of a decision in accordance with Procedure Rule 206.

8) DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY HUBS AND THE EARLY HELP OFFER

To receive Report No. 43/2022 from Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services (Pages 15 - 22)

9) DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY: UPDATE

To receive Report No. 44/2022 from Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services. (Pages 23 - 114)

10) QUARTER THREE PERFORMANCE

To receive Report No. 33/2022 from Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services.

[FOR INFORMATION ONLY]

(Pages 115 - 120)

11) REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN

To consider the current Forward Plan and identify any relevant items for inclusion in the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Annual Work Plan, or to request further information.

The Forward Plan is available on the website at:

https://rutlandcounty.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=133&RD=0 (Pages 121 - 124)

12) ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

To receive any other items of urgent business which have been previously notified to the person presiding

13) DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

21 April 2022 at 7 pm via Zoom

Proposed Agenda Items:

- 1. Children's Services: Update including Self-Assessment & Ofsted visit
- 2. SEND Service Update & Review (including performance and SENDIASS)
- 3. Provision of Speech and Language Services
- 4. Q4 KPI (January March)

---oOo---

TO: ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Nar	Name			
1.	Councillor P Ainsley (Chair)			
2.	Councillor E Baines			
3.	Councillor N Begy			
4.	Councillor A Brown			
5.	Councillor P Browne			
6.	Councillor J Fox			
7.	Councillor S Webb (Vice Chair)			

CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Name		Title
8.	Andreas Menzies	Parent Governor
9.	Peter French	Parent Governor
10.	Irene Kearney-Rose	Parent Governor

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Name Title	
------------	--

11.	Councillor D Wilby	Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's
		Services

OFFICERS:

Name		Title	
12.	2. Dawn Godfrey Strategic Director of Children and Families		
13.	Emma Sweeny	Head of Children's Social Care	
14.	Bernadette Caffrey	Head of Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	
15.	Gill Curtis	Head of Learning and Skills	
16.	Jane Narey	Scrutiny Officer (Clerk)	

Agenda Item 2 Public Document Pack



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP. Telephone 01572 722577 Email: governance@rutland.gov.uk

Minutes of the MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY **COMMITTEE** held via Zoom on Thursday, 16th December, 2021 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor P Ainsley (Chair)

> Councillor E Baines Councillor N Begy Councillor A Brown Councillor P Browne Councillor J Fox Councillor S Webb

Councillor L Toseland ABSENT:

> Andreas Menzies Parent Governor Irene Kearney- Rose Parent Governor

PORTFOLIO

HOLDERS

PRESENT:

Councillor D Wilby

Portfolio Holder for Education

Children's Services

Councillor S Harvey

Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and

Adult Care

OFFICERS

PRESENT:

Dawn Godfrey

Strategic Families

Bernadette Caffrey

Head of Early Intervention, SEND &

of

Children

and

Inclusion

Louise

Crookenden-

SEND Capital Programme Manager

Director

Johnson

Jane Narey

Scrutiny Officer (Clerk)

APOLOGIES:

Peter French

Parent Governor

Karen Kibblewhite

Head of Commissioning

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED 1

Councillor Ainsley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from the co-opted member Mr Peter French and from Karen Kibblewhite, Head of Commissioning.

2 **RECORD OF MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30th September 2021 were approved as an accurate record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

4 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no petitions, deputations, or questions.

5 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions with notice from members

6 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

There were no notices of motion from members

7 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO CALL IN OF A DECISION

There were no call-ins.

---oOo---

At the request of Dawn Godfrey and with the permission of the Chair, it was agreed that Agenda Item 10 would be discussed first, followed by Agenda Item 9 and then Agenda Item 8.

---oOo---

8 SEND RECOVERY PLAN PROJECTS: UPDATE

Report No. 188/2021 was received from Bernadette Caffrey, Head of Early Intervention, SEND and Inclusion and was presented by Louise Crookenden-Johnson, SEND Capital Programme Manager. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The High Needs cumulative deficit was projected to be about £1m by March 2022 and would increase by approximately £500k per year.
- 100 children had been considered through the sector led panel process. In the future, schools would be able to commission support directly using their own funds.
- There had been a significant reduction in the number of excluded pupils at Catmose College because of the projects.
- The demand for EHCP's had increased in the past year.
- The national review of the SEND Code of Practice had not been finalised.
- The projects were assisting schools to act early when they saw that a child's social emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs had escalated so that support could be put in place to prevent a child from being moved into the SEND system.
- Councillor Brown requested that the 'current modelling' table (page 45) be simplified as the items in brackets usually identified a deficit, which was not the case in this example.

ACTION: Louise Crookenden-Johnson

• Dawn Godfrey confirmed that the projects were moving in the right direction to financially balance in the long-term, without the need to reduce services.

- Louise Crookenden-Johnson confirmed that some schools had not understood the projects at the beginning but have since seen the results and were now very supportive of the projects.
- Councillor E Baines stated that he would abstain from voting as he had not received the papers until the afternoon of the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Scrutiny Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the progress and emerging impact of the SEND Recovery Plan group of projects.
- b) **ENDORSED** the actions planned to continue to positively impact the High Needs Budget deficit.

---oOo---Louise Crookenden-Johnson left the meeting at 7:48 p.m. ---oOo---

9 REVIEW OF COMMISSIONED SERVICES AND YOUTH OFFENDING

Report No. 187/2021 was received from Dawn Godfrey, Strategic Director – Children's Services. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The report and Appendix A detailed the different services commissioned by Children's Services and due for recommissioning within the next 2 years.
- Some services were commissioned to other Local Authorities to deliver on our behalf due to the small size of Rutland County Council namely adoption services, which were commissioned to Lincolnshire County Council; the children's social care legal services, which were commissioned to Peterborough City Council and the out of hours service, which was commissioned to Leicestershire County Council.
- Dawn Godfrey had established the Children's Commissioning Group to oversee all
 of Children's Services commissioning. The group ensured that all commissioned
 services were provided to a high quality via monthly meetings with the respective
 Local Authorities.
- Councillor Begy asked how such a big job was managed and errors prevented. Dawn Godfrey confirmed that KPI's (key performance indicators) were issued with each contract and were closely monitored by Children's Services and the Commissioning Team during the life of the contract.
- Healthy Child Programme extended to undertake a full review of the service specifications in two sections: 0–11-year-olds and the 12–19-year-olds.
- Contracts were reviewed when due for renewal to assess if the service was still
 required, if there was any duplication of services and if the service could be
 provided cheaper but with the same quality by a different provider.
- Bernadette confirmed the Educational Psychology Service had 275 children with a
 plan and that the service did not have a waiting list, unlike many other Local
 Authorities. However, the demand for plans and assessments of children was
 expected to rise, especially those arising from parental requests. Dawn Godfrey
 also reported that a national shortage of qualified Educational Psychologists would
 also increase costs.
- Bernadette Caffrey clarified that 'ADHD Solutions' were an independent charitable provider working across Rutland and Leicestershire.

- Dawn Godfrey stated that the Official Journal of the European Union stated in item 10.1 was no longer relevant due to Brexit.
- Bernadette Caffrey confirmed that the 'greater choice and control' stated in item 10.3 was not an 'open cheque' to families. Instead, families, if they met the threshold for support, were given a set amount via a personal budget or a direct payment for them to directly purchase the service(s) they deemed most appropriate.
- Councillor Ainsley stated that the commissioning of services for the Council's Children's Services was very complex, with 21 contracts due for renewal in 2022 alone.

RESOLVED

That Scrutiny Committee:

a) **NOTED** the commissioning arrangements, assurances and impact of significant commissioned contracts in Children's Services

---oOo--Dawn Godfrey and Bernadette Caffrey left the meeting at 8.38 p.m.
---oOo---

10 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

---oOo--Councillor N Begy left the meeting at 8:41 p.m.
---oOo---

11 APPOINTMENT OF A NEW VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

- Councillor Ainsley informed attendees that, following Councillor Harvey's appointment to the Cabinet, a new Vice Chair for the Scrutiny Committee was needed.
- There were no nominations for the role of Vice Chair, so Councillor Ainsley nominated Councillor Sue Webb as the Vice Chair. This was seconded by Councillor P Browne and was unanimously agreed by the committee.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Sue Webb was **APPOINTED** as the Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

12 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN

The Forward Plan and Work Plan were discussed. No changes were made.

13 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 26th January 2022 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

This would be a joint meeting with the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee with only 1 item on the agenda: The Budget for 2022/23

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

No.	Ref.	Action	Ву
1	9	Councillor Brown requested that the	Louise
		'current modelling' table (page 45) be	Crookenden-
		simplified as the items in brackets usually	Johnson
		identified a deficit, which was not the	
		case in this example.	

---oOo---

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm. ---oOo---

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Rutland County Council

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Minutes of the SPECIAL JOINT MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held via Zoom on Wednesday, 26th January, 2022 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor G Waller (Chair)

Councillor P Ainsley (Vice Chair)

Councillor N Begy
Councillor K Bool
Councillor A Brown
Councillor W Cross
Councillor J Fox
Councillor R Powell
Councillor L Toseland
Councillor S Webb

APOLOGIES: Councillor E Baines

ABSENT: Councillor P Browne

PORTFOLIO HOLDER PRESENT: Councillor S Harvey Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing

and Adult Care

Councillor K Payne Portfolio Holder for Finance,

Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation

Councillor D Wilby Portfolio Holder for Education and

Children's Services

OFFICERS PRESENT:

John Morley

Strategic Director of Adults and Health

Dawn Godfrey Strategic Director of Children and

Families

Saverio Della Rocca

Strategic Director of Resources Finance Manager

Andrew Merry Jane Narey

Scrutiny Officer

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Councillor Waller welcomed everyone to the Special Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting and informed attendees that she would Chair the meeting and Councillor Ainsley would act as Vice Chair. Apologies were received from Councillor Baines and from the co-opted member Mr Andreas Menzies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

3 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no petitions, deputations or questions

4 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions with notice from members

5 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

There were no notices of motion from members

6 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO CALL IN OF A DECISION

There were no call-ins

7 DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2022/23

Report No. 01/2022 was received from Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Special Joint Scrutiny Committee was asked to provide comments and views on the draft budget before the final budget report was recommended by Cabinet to Council in February 2022.
- Members had previously submitted questions regarding the budget to the Strategic Director for Resources and it was agreed that the questions and responses would be published with the minutes.
- Councillor Waller reminded attendees that as the Adults and Health and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committees discussions should relate to Appendix 4 – People Directorate Budget for 2022/23.
- Appendices 5 and 6 for the Places and Resources Directorates respectively would be discussed at the GIR Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on the 27th January 2022.
- Councillor Powell queried the vacant posts that had been removed from the budget. It was clarified following discussion that only vacant posts no longer required were removed from the budget. The Strategic Director of Resources stated that the number of posts change from year-to-year, so the current year shows the difference between the last year and the current year e.g. Children's Services had 5 vacancies last year but 5 trainee social workers. The trainees were now qualified and had moved into the vacant positions so this year there was a reduction in the number of vacancies by 5. This has saved £126k which was the cost last year to employ interim staff to fill the 5 vacancies until the trainee social workers were qualified.
- Councillor Ainsley queried the £1 million deficit in the High Needs Block. The Strategic Director of Children and Families stated that the SEND Recovery Plan was in place. The plan provided support at a much earlier stage so that a child did

- not need to move into the expensive high needs service. The recovery plan was proving effective and would reduce costs moving forward.
- It was confirmed that additional support would be required to undertake the Market Sustainability Assessment within Adult Social Care. The implementation of the Adult social care charging reforms was a massive piece of work involving all Adult Services, in particular the Commissioning Team and Revenue and Benefits Team.
- John Morley also reported that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) would begin
 inspections of Adult Social Care Services as from April 2023. Deprivation of
 Liberty (DoLs) forms would be replaced by Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) as
 from October 2022. This would be a very specialist service requiring specialist
 staff and admin staff to support this service as it would be covering Children's
 Services as well as Adult Services.
- Councillor Waller requested that updates regarding forthcoming legislation changes be given by Directors at Member's Briefings e.g. CQC inspections, LPS, Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and Primary Care Networks (PCN) etc.
- John Morley confirmed that the current staffing structure for Adult Services was correct due to a low staff turnover rate. The service had adapted successfully during the pandemic and would continue to be flexible and adaptable to ensure the service remained dynamic.
- The Strategic Director of Children and Families confirmed that the staffing structure for Children's Services had been adapted over the past two years within the budget envelope and would continue to be adapted as the need arises.
- The Committee thanked both Directors for the excellent work being undertaken by their staff and service areas.

RESOLVED:

 That the Committee's comments and views on the Draft Revenue and Capital Budget 2022/23 be taken into consideration by Cabinet when recommending the final Revenue and Capital Budget 2022/23 to Council

8 FEES AND CHARGES 2022/23

Report No. 03/2022 was received from Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- a) The Special Joint Scrutiny Committee was asked to provide comments and views before the report was sent to Cabinet in February 2022 for approval.
- b) Councillor Waller reminded attendees that as the Adults and Health and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committees discussions should relate to Appendix 1 People Directorate proposed fees and charges 2022/23.
- c) Councillor Powell queried the actual cost of the DPA fee. The Strategic Director of Resources stated that this was supported by a cost breakdown. In other areas, if the costs base had not changed then to increase the annual cost in line with inflation was appropriate.
- d) Councillor Waller queried why Admissions fees were set and agreed by the Schools' Forum. The Strategic Director of Children and Families stated that it was a Schools' Forum responsibility to discuss and agree financial issues relating to schools. Agreement from Rutland schools was important if the Local Authority were to cover its costs.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee's comments and views on the Fees and Charges 2022/23 be taken into consideration by Cabinet when recommending the Fees and Charges 2022/23 to Council

9 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee would be on Thursday, 17th February at 7pm

The next ordinary meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee would be held on Thursday, 24th February at 7pm

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.57 pm.

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Report No: 43/2022 PUBLIC REPORT

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24 February 2022

DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY HUBS AND THE EARLY HELP OFFER

Report of the Strategic Director for Children and Families

Strategic Aim: Strate	trategic Aim]			
Exempt Information		No		
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:		David Wilby Portfolio Holder Education and Children's Services		
Contact Officer(s):	Dawn Godfrey Strategic Director Children and Families Bernadette Caffrey Head of Service Early Help SEND and Inclusion		01572 758358 dgodfrey@rutland.gov.uk 01572 722943 bcaffrey@rutland.gov.uk	
Ward Councillors	All			

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

 Notes the development of a national and local Family Hub programme and that the Committee endorses the opportunities the Family Hub provides, to build upon our existing services in Rutland

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update Children's Scrutiny Committee on the national and local Family Hub programme and to note the opportunities and actions to develop a Family Hub for Rutland.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Government has made a commitment to Family Hubs, as set out in its Manifesto, and is investing over £14m to champion Family Hubs. This includes a new National Centre for Family Hubs to provide expert advice, guidance, and advocacy, an evaluation innovation fund to build the evidence base, and data and digital products to help professionals collaborate and plan with families in the early years. The Department for Education, (DfE) is leading this work.
- 2.2 In November 2021 the Government announced £500 million towards families and early years services, in line with their 2019 manifesto promises. £82 million

specifically for Family Hubs. The Minister for Families, Will Quince, at the launch of the National Centre for Family Hubs, stated, "The Government believes in the family hub model."

- 2.3 The national Family Hub programme is intended to be a system-wide model of providing high-quality, joined-up, whole-family support services. There are a number of key national policies and initiatives which are informing Family Hubs, such as the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) 'Best Start in Life, 1001 Critical days', the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, (DLUHC) Supporting Families Programme, (formerly Troubled Families), and Early Help System Guide and the Department of Work and Pensions, (DWP), Reducing Parental Conflict. Rutland County Council are engaged in and delivering on each of these programmes.
- 2.4 A review into improving health and development outcomes for babies in England, titled the 'Early Years Healthy Development Review', started in 2020. The initial task was to create a vision for 'brilliance' in the 1,001 critical days from conception to age two of a child's life. The Review was carried out during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, but it is intended to inform longer term work.
- 2.5 England's Chief Medical Officer said that "COVID-19 is likely to have an impact on public health globally, in the UK, and in England specifically, for many years". As we set about improving the public health of the nation, we must place our youngest citizens at the centre of our work to build back better.
- An outcome of the Development Review is to get in place a national infrastructure of Children and Family Hubs which would be a centre point of support for children and families. They would act as the gateway to multiple services and the teams within them would be responsible for co-ordinating early years services and support across the local area, to ensure all children who need help get it. The Development Review's areas for action are:
 - Seamless support for new families
 - A welcoming Hub for the family
 - The information families need when they need it
 - An empowered Start for Life workforce
 - Continually improving the Start for Life offer
 - Leadership for change

3 WHAT IS A FAMILY HUB?

3.1 Family Hubs are intended to deliver services from conception, through a child's early years until they reach the age of 19 (or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities). It is a mix of physical and virtual spaces, as well as outreach, where families can easily access non-judgmental support for the challenges they may be facing. A Family Hub should provide a universal 'front door' to families, offering a 'one-stop shop' of family support services across their social care, education, mental health, and physical health needs, with a comprehensive 'Start for Life' offer for parents and babies at its core.

3.2 Why do we need Family Hubs?

- 3.2.1 There have been serious consequences as a result of the disruption to services during the pandemic. The 'Babies in Lockdown' survey of over 5,000 parents of 0-to two-year-olds found nine out of ten parents and carers experienced higher levels of anxiety during lockdown. 25% reported concern about their relationship with their baby. Work is being undertaken to understand the effects of the coronavirus lockdowns on babies and their carers. More research is underway to understand the particular challenges that the pandemic has brought for disabled babies and their parents.
- 3.2.2 Both the national and our local Rutland feedback from families and service providers during the coronavirus pandemic, has highlighted how important it is to be able to meet other parents and get face to face support; it is not the same when services are only available via phone or video call. In order to give every baby, the best start for life, families need places they can go to get support, they need to know where these places are, and they need to know exactly how to access them.
- 3.2.3 Raising children in the midst of other challenges is far from easy and families do not just need support when children are young. When early help is not available and parents have to struggle alone, children often have more physical and mental health problems, under-perform at school and are much less likely to fulfil their potential in other areas. Every year increasing numbers of children are taken into local authority care. More effective early intervention is needed in every community to reverse this trend.

3.3 What do Family Hubs Offer?

- 3.3.1 Each Family Hub is intended to be bespoke to the local community it serves, however there are three key delivery principles that underlie all Family Hubs, which are:
 - ACCESS to services which is clear and simple for families.
 - CONNECTIONS connects to universal service, (those available to all families)
 and focussed support for vulnerable families. It will be a space and place for
 professionals and the voluntary and community sectors to work together
 facilitated by co-location, robust data-sharing arrangements, and a common
 approach to their work.
 - RELATIONSHIPS which focus on the strengths in a family and a trusting relationship with professionals, reflecting our Signs of Safety approach in Rutland.
- 3.3.2 A hub approach allows families to access face to face and digital support from public, private, and voluntary organisations at a single place.
- 3.3.3 Family Hubs services will reflect the local need and be based on a robust and accurate assessment of need, using standard datasets such as the JSNA, the Public Health profiles and equally important speaking to children, young people, and families themselves. Family Hubs will be welcoming, family-focused centres for every new family during pregnancy and beyond. Local Family Hub networks may consist of both physical and virtual places where services to support families

come together, from birth registration to midwifery, health visiting to mental health support and parenting courses to infant feeding advice. All of the many 'wraparound' services provided by local authorities, health or voluntary organisations – ranging from debt and housing advice and relationship support services to language classes and support to overcome domestic abuse, substance abuse or to improve wellbeing, employment support and adult education, engaging fathers, family law, outreach and access, special educational needs and disability (SEND) advice and support, and youth services can also be accessible through Family Hubs.

4 CONSULTATION

4.1 Our Family Hub will deliver support services early, when families need them, particularly in the first 1,001 days, and services delivered will reflect the needs of Rutland families, informed by a robust needs assessment and data analysis, and in line with our Strategic Children's Plan which is to focus on our vulnerable families, families who have special education needs or a disability, or those groups who are experiencing exclusion. We are using the information from the Rutland Conversation, the consultation feedback from children, young people and adults, on the Children's Plan, to shape our Family Hub Plan. Parents and carers will be invited to be part of a steering group to work on the design and plan for the Family Hub

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 5.1 The national Development Review heard that it can be difficult for parents and carers to ask for help, in part because they fear they will be judged. Some people specifically mentioned that Sure Start Children's Centres can be perceived as places for those who need help with specific problems. This can dissuade families from accessing services, as they fear being perceived as a 'bad parent'. Rutland Children's Centre team has work with the community and it partners, such as GPs midwives and health visitors to make it easier for families to feel it is OK to need support and to ask for help, and to remove the stigma many parents feel. The Review suggests that one of the ways to do this is to make each Family Hub a place where parents go to do the things that every parent does, for example, registering the birth of a baby.
- 5.2 The learning from Covid ways of working, will be utilised to create a more flexible and accessible offer to families, families wanted a blended approach to information and advice, through virtual and face to face contact including, evenings and at weekends.
- 5.3 The virtual offer could include opportunities for families to self-refer to some faceto-face services where appropriate or self-serve virtual support and could also ensure ongoing information about needs, and any gaps in services, continue to be gathered beyond the initial feasibility study (by tracking enquiries and demand).

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no dedicated long-term funding for additional personnel or resources and the Family Hub programme will be reliant on utilising existing resources across the partnership system and may involve contributions in kind and new ways of working. The National Centre for Family Hubs and the regional support team are providing Local Authorities with advice and support to build a Family Hub network, including

- incorporating existing Sure Start Children's Centres into their network where appropriate.
- 6.2 The DfE have allocated £40,000 to each Local Authority to build capacity to set up the programme. This is a one-off grant which is expected to be spent as soon as possible. There are unconfirmed reports that the DfE will release further transformation money in the next financial year once Local Authorities have prepared their proposed Plans.
- 6.3 The Local Authority is working with Public Heath colleagues on the new contract for the 0 to 19 Healthy Child Programme and the model features health services delivered from a Family Hub, and the 11 plus years element of the contract being specifically to work with and in the Family Hub.
- There is no capital funding for this programme, any increased or new physical space will have to come from existing assets. Consideration needs to be given to the outcome of the Corporate Asset review to utilise spaces effectively, efficiently and in a joined-up way.

7 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Rutland Children and Young People's Partnership will provide the strategic oversight for the Family Hub programme. Discussions and agreement have taken place at the existing Children's Centre Governance Group in January 2022, to revise the Terms of Reference and purpose of the group to hold operational oversight of the wider agenda and age range of 0 to 19, and up to 25 years for children with SEND.
- 7.2 A Steering group to include service users will work with the Programme Manager to undertake a needs assessment and work up a Delivery Plan over the next 12 months.

8 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 An outcome of the programme is to improve data sharing pathways and shared case management systems, which will reduce a need for families to retell their story.
- 8.2 There are information sharing agreements in place already, between the Children Centre and Health services, and across the partnership through the Supporting Families, (formerly the Troubled Families), programme.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 Our Family Hub will deliver support services early, when families need them, particularly in the first 1,001 days, and services delivered will reflect the needs of Rutland families, informed by a robust needs assessment and data analysis, and in line with our Strategic Children's Plan which is to focus on our vulnerable families, families who have special education needs or a disability, or those groups who are experiencing exclusion.
- 9.2 Having a place to go to is important for families but a single, centralised location will not be able to meet the needs of all families in a community. More rural locations, such as Rutland, as well as more diverse communities, will need different specialist or outreach services that can form a part of the wider Family Hub network, but which

are tailored for the particular needs of a community

10 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There is a real opportunity to build on our integrated Front Door to Children's services, where we have successfully implemented internal joint working with children's Social Care, Early Help, Community Safety and SEND and connected the wider partnership.
- The Family Hub programme will build on the existing youth services offer and working closely with the community safety team. The new contract for the Youth Justice service for Rutland commissioned from Leicestershire County Council will reflect this integrated approach and local priorities.

11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Development Review and the learning from Children's Centres, heard two main problems that arise from 'targeted only' support. First, identifying vulnerable families can be challenging. Second, a targeted approach can leave families feeling stigmatised and therefore less willing to ask for help, even when they desperately need it. Therefore, it is important that our Family Hub workforce know how to sensitively refer families on for further support, including social work support where it is needed.
- 11.2 The' Best Start in Life', and the Family Hub is one of the key priorities in the Health and Well Being Strategy and Place Plan
- 11.3 Connections between the many professionals and volunteers supporting families can be easily formed, for example, if a family is 'handed over' from the midwife to the health visitor or introduced by the health visitor to a mental health professional at a Family Hub, it will be much easier to share vital information and concerns than when professionals are based in different locations. This also gives professionals and volunteers the opportunity to receive support, advice, and supervision together.

12 ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Environmental implications It will be a challenge to have suitable physical spaces to deliver co-located services across a broad range of ages from 0 to 19, (25 years). The Corporate asset review may provide an opportunity to utilise space more efficiently to enable more services to operate together from one site and to support outreach work, such as our library and information service which provide services for children and adults and will be a key delivery partner. We will not lose the advantages of easy access and convenience for parents that virtual tools brought during the pandemic
- Human Resource implications Capacity in services to set up and engage in the programme, is a risk, especially the impact of the Covid pandemic on health and education services and the challenge in recruitment to key posts such as health visiting. The DfE grant has been utilised to put in place since 1st February 2022, a very experienced Family Hub Programme Manager for 2 days a week for 12 months, to work with Children Services and Adult services teams and across the partnership to design and get in place a Family Hub for Rutland. Officers will contribute to the development work as part of their existing duties.

12.3 Procurement Implications - The procurement of the Healthy Child Programme, the Youth Justice service, commissioning of our special needs provision, especially our Early Years provision, will reflect the local needs and contribute and be an integral part of the Family Hub programme for Rutland.

13 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee, notes and endorses the opportunities which the Family Hub programme provides for Rutland, and which builds upon our successful Children Centre, our Youth Offer, and our strong early help partnerships, and close working with adult services and the health economy, and fits into the agenda of the Health and Well Being Strategy and our Rutland Children's Services Plan.

14 BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 There are no additional background papers to the report

15 APPENDICES

15.1 There are no appendices

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Report No: 44/2022 PUBLIC REPORT

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24 February 2022

DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY: UPDATE

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

Strategic Aim: Pr	otecting the Vulnerable		
Exempt Information	า	No	
Cabinet Member(s Responsible:)	Cllr D Wilby, Portfolio Ho Children's Services	older for Education and
Contact Officer(s):	Dawn Godfre Children's Se	ey, Strategic Director for ervices	01572 758358 dgodfrey@rutland.gov.uk
	Emma Sweeny, Head of Children's Social Care		esweeny@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All		

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Notes the report which features the outcomes of the needs assessment and gives regard to the new duties placed upon the local authority following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and endorses the Domestic Abuse Strategy 21-24.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To raise awareness of the local authority responsibilities and duties following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 in April 2021 which came into force in October 2021.
- 1.2 To present the findings from the local strategic needs assessment and provide opportunity to review the subsequent Domestic Abuse Strategy.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 There are some 2.3 million victims of domestic abuse a year aged 16 to 74 (two-thirds of whom are women) and more than one in ten of all offences recorded by the police are domestic abuse related.
- 2.2 In December 2019 the Government was elected with a manifesto commitment to "support all victims of domestic abuse and pass the Domestic Abuse Bill" originally introduced in the last Parliament. The act aims to ensure that victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences, safe in the knowledge that

the state will do everything it can, both to support them and their children and pursue the abuser.

- 2.3 In spring 2018, the Government conducted a public consultation on Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse which attracted over 3,200 responses.
- 2.4 The Government response to the consultation and a draft Domestic Abuse Bill were published in January 2019. The Government response set out 123 commitments, both legislative and non-legislative, designed to promote awareness of domestic abuse; protect and support victims and their families; transform the justice process to prioritise victim safety and provide an effective response to perpetrators; and to drive consistency and better performance in the response to domestic abuse across all local areas, agencies and sectors.

2.5 The aims of the Act are to:

- Raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families.
- Further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice.
- Strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies.

2.6 The Act will:

- create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse
- establish in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner's functions and powers
- provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order
- place a duty on local authorities in England to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation
- prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales
- create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts
- clarify the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989 to prevent family proceedings that can further traumatise victims
- extend the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse.
- extend the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress (known as the "revenge porn" offence) to cover threats to disclose such material
- create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of another person.

- clarify by restating in statute law the general proposition that a person may not consent to the infliction of serious harm and, by extension, is unable to consent to their own death
- extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales,
 Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences
- provide for a statutory domestic abuse perpetrator strategy
- enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody
- place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme ("Clare's law") on a statutory footing.
- Provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance
- ensure that where a local authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy) this must be a secure lifetime tenancy
- prohibit GPs and other health professionals in general practice from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid
- provide for a statutory code of practice relating to the processing of domestic abuse data for immigration purposes

3 STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACROSS ENGLAND – SUPPORT IN SAFE ACCOMMODATION

- 3.1 Statutory Guidance was issued under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and relates to the requirements for local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- 3.2 Part 4 of the 2021 Act details duties on relevant local authorities to assess the need for accommodation-based support and prepare strategies to provide such support for victims.
- 3.3 The 2021 Act is clear that children of domestic abuse victims who have seen, heard, or experienced the effect of that abuse are victims in their own right.
- 3.4 The Guidance places duties on each relevant local authority in England to:
 - Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which it must consult as it performs certain specified functions (below).
 - Assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims and their children who reside in relevant safe accommodation, including those who come from outside of their area.
 - Prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their area having regard to the needs assessment.
 - Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / decommissioning decisions).
 - Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.

· Report back annually to central government.

4 ASSESSING THE NEED FOR ACCOMMODATION-BASED DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT

- 4.1 Rutland County Council commissioned SafeLives, a leading organisation committed to ending domestic abuse, to carry out a local strategic needs assessment.
- 4.2 The Council and SafeLives agreed to collaborate in the delivery of consultancy assistance (both fee-based, and pro-bono) to strengthen the response to domestic abuse across the Local Authority area including a 'Whole Picture' review and needs assessment mapping for the Domestic Abuse Bill.
- 4.3 The needs assessment was concluded in October 2021 and the findings below presented to the Safer Rutland Partnership.
- 4.4 The findings of the needs assessment are:
- 4.4.1 Calculated using the SafeLives prevalence tool, an estimated 1690 adult victims experienced domestic abuse in the last year, with around 8% experiencing both partner and family abuse. This is higher than identified in the needs assessment. The number of victims reported by all agencies has decreased across the 3 years, which is not unexpected with the impact of Covid-19 and subsequent restrictions, reducing the opportunity for victims to reach out for support in ways that they might have done prior to the pandemic.
 - The highest age categories across the period are 25-34 and 35-44 years.
 - There was an increase year on year in the number of 18–24-year-old victims.
 - Child victims under 18 years account for under 12% of all victims in 2020-21.
 - Children 0-5 years account for around half of all child victims.
 - There has been a decrease in reports to all agencies except for adult social care.
- 4.4.2 Data provided around protected characteristics has been inconsistent, and in some cases difficult to analyse effectively. However, it is evident that the number of victims with protected characteristics are under identified in data collection by most agencies. This would suggest that there are a significant number of hidden victims within Rutland that are not accessing appropriate support services. Implementing a more robust and consistent approach to data collection will ensure a clearer understanding of local need and enable more effective planning and commissioning of services.
- 4.4.3 There has also been an increasing trend with victims requesting homelessness assistance with the same number of victims seeking support in the first 4 months of the current year as there were in 2019-20. This increase suggests that more victims may present in need of safe accommodation, which consequently may increase the need for additional support.
- 4.4.4 There were no domestic homicides in Rutland, whilst in England and Wales there has been a dramatic increase. This national increase highlights the potential risk to victims who are unable to escape an abusive home environment, have recently separated or are attempting to separate.

- 4.5 Safe Accommodation Provision:
- 4.5.1 All referrals to UAVA enter through a single front door commissioned by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR), which includes referrals for Safe Accommodation.
- 4.5.2 The number of safe accommodation (dispersal units) spaces in Rutland of 9 is at the recommended level per 10,000 population, provided through Women's Aid. The Council of Europe recommendation is 1 family place per 10,000 population therefore this provision is above the recommended number.
- 4.5.3 Referrals for Safe Accommodation are increasing. 61% of referrals to UAVA were successful in 2020-21. The source of referrals has consistently been the Local Helpline and DA Services. The exception to this is in 2020-21 when there was one referral from Housing Services, one from the local authority and 3 Other.
- 4.5.4 The average length of stay in Safe Accommodation across LLR ranges from 102 days to 113. Consideration should be given to recovery support that will enable survivors to move on to suitable accommodation and free up space for higher risk victims to access. Not all victims referred for Safe Accommodation will access this for a variety of reasons to include the location of the safe accommodation which may disrupt the education of children and prevent travel to work. A further understanding of these reasons is required to ensure provision can meet the needs of victims, particularly to ensure victims can remain living safely in their own homes and communities.
- 4.5.5 No data was available regarding the ages of victims or the number of children within the dispersed accommodation or within households which have accessed the sanctuary scheme. When considering that children account for a large portion of all victims and particularly children aged 0-5 account for almost half of all child victims, a high number may also access safe accommodation. Support for children, such as play therapy and other therapeutic support, must be available in all forms of safe accommodation including Sanctuary Schemes/Target Hardening. Support for victims as Parents must also be available. It is also fundamental that support is received from statutory services such as midwifery, health visitors and school nurse whilst victims are within relevant safe accommodation.

5 DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

- 5.1 Tier one authorities must appoint a Local Partnership Board consisting of key partners with an interest in tackling domestic abuse and supporting victims, including their children.
- 5.2 All Boards must include relevant representation from services and / or organisations that support the needs of children, ensuring the unique needs of child victims and children of domestic abuse victims staying with their parent in relevant safe accommodation are adequately considered and addressed.
- As set out in the 2021 Act, Boards should support tier one authorities by providing advice on the exercise of the following functions:
 - Assessing the scale and nature of the needs for support within relevant safe accommodation for all victims, including their children, including those that require highly specialist support and those that come from out of area.

- Preparing and publishing a whole-area domestic abuse support in relevant safe accommodation strategy setting out the steps needed to meet the needs of diverse victims including their children, joining up strategies across local areas where appropriate.
- Giving effect to the strategy by making commissioning and decommissioning decisions of support within relevant safe accommodation at a local level.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the strategy, including local delivery of support within domestic abuse relevant safe accommodation.
- Reporting on progress and how funding has been used to DLUHC.
- Provision of any other local authority support being provided to victims of domestic abuse or their children in the authority's area.
- Rutland County Council has sought to utilise the resource and expertise of the Safer Rutland Partnership to accommodate the requirement to create and maintain a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board with responsibility for overseeing the local response to domestic abuse. SafeLives are working with the Chair to develop this further to ensure the Board is fully compliant with the Act.

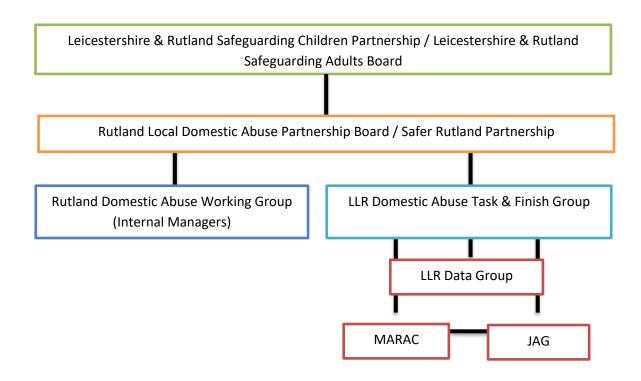
6 DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT WITHIN RELEVANT SAFE ACCOMMODATION

- 6.1 Such support is described as:
 - Overall management of services within relevant safe accommodation including capacity building, support and supervision of staff, payroll, financial and day to day management of services and maintaining relationships with the local authority (such functions will often be undertaken by a service manager)
 - Support with the day-to-day running of the service for example scheduling times for counselling sessions, group activities (such functions may often be undertaken by administrative or office staff)
 - Advocacy support development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers).
 - Domestic abuse prevention advice support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online), and to prevent re-victimisation.
 - Specialist support for victims
 - Designed specifically for victims with relevant protected characteristics such as faith services, translators and interpreters, immigration advice, interpreters for victims identifying as deaf and / or hard of hearing, and dedicated support for LGBTQ+ victims.
 - Designed specifically for victims with additional and / or complex needs such as, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support, including sign posting accordingly.
 - Children's support including play therapy, child advocacy or a specialist children worker

- Housing-related support providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home, rights to existing accommodation and advice on how to live safely and independently.
- Advice service including financial and legal support, including accessing benefits, support into work and establishing independent financial arrangements; and,
- Counselling and therapy including group support for both adults and children, including emotional support.

7 DOMESTIC ABUSE GOVERNANCE IN RUTLAND

- 7.1 In order to exercise its functions under section 57 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, all relevant local authorities in England must appoint a section 58 Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.
- 7.2 Rutland's Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (LDAPB) incorporated within the Safer Rutland Partnership (SRP), has overall responsibility for the oversight of domestic abuse in Rutland including support within Safe Accommodation for victim-survivors and their children, and for the implementation and monitoring of the effectiveness of this strategy and action plan. The LDAPB / SRP meets each quarter and is chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change and attended by the Strategic Lead for Domestic Abuse (Strategic Director Children and Families).
- 7.3 Rutland is joined up with Leicester and Leicestershire in many of its functions and service delivery to include the delivery of specialist domestic abuse services and our additional local governance groups consist of the following:



8 COMMISSIONED SPECIALIST DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT IN RUTLAND

- 8.1 Rutland jointly commissions UAVA (United Against Violence and Abuse) to provide specialist domestic abuse support to victims and survivors across Rutland, Leicester City and Leicestershire.
- 8.2 UAVA is a consortium of three local specialist providers of domestic abuse and sexual violence services Women's Aid Leicestershire Ltd, FreeVA and Living without Abuse (LWA).
- 8.3 UAVA provides coordinated domestic and sexual violence services across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland for any female or male over 13 years.
- 8.4 A tendering process was entered into during 2021 to establish a new provider or contract to deliver the LLR domestic abuse support. LWA were successful in this bid and will continue to work across LLR to deliver this support to victims of domestic abuse with a new contract coming into effect from 1st April 2022.
- 8.5 The helpline and engagement service will be the main access point for victims of domestic abuse/sexual violence and as such it will offer a "front door" to other support services. The Helpline and Engagement service will include a telephone helpline including webchat, assertive engagement and provision of a dedicated worker who will help to guide individuals on their support journey. It will also act as a front door for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- 8.6 The Domestic violence/abuse service will offer more intensive and specialist support and information to victims of domestic abuse/violence and their families. Support will be tailored to individual and specific needs including support throughout the criminal and civil justice system.

9 OUR DOMESTIC ABUSE PRIORITIES FOR 2021 – 2024

- 9.1 A delivery plan, responding to the conclusions of the needs assessment will be developed which details how the objectives within this strategy will be met and will focus on the short and long-term actions identified, and address any identified gaps in relation to the new duties.
- 9.1.1 Raising awareness of domestic abuse and the prevalence locally
 - Ensuring professional curiosity to explore hidden harm and potential under reporting of abuse in Rutland to protect and support more victims.
 - Awareness raising campaigns in order that our community recognises domestic abuse to support a change in attitude.
- 9.1.2 Safeguarding people at risk and providing support for victims and survivors
 - Work more effectively with agencies to ensure we listen to the voice of victims and survivors that enables the shaping of services and support, to meet local need.
 - Victims will have the confidence to report incidents of domestic abuse and receive the right support from relevant agencies.

- Recognising that young people in their own relationships can become victims
 of domestic abuse to ensure they receive the right support early.
- 9.1.3 Changing behaviours of perpetrators and preventing reoffending
 - Consideration given to perpetrator management programmes, which could enable victims and children to remain in their homes and communities, reducing disruption and trauma already experienced.
- 9.1.4 Ensuring all agencies/partners work together to provide a multi-agency response to tackling domestic abuse
- 9.1.5 Support for victim and survivors in relevant safe accommodation
 - Providing specific targeted support for victims of domestic abuse that empowers victims and builds confidence, develops resilience and independence, and increases safety.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 None required.

11 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

11.1 None required.

12 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- The local authority has received funding to exercise its new duties to provide support in safe accommodation. Rutland County Council is in receipt of Building Capital Funding of £50,000 to carrying out administration tasks associated with completion of the needs assessment, and a further £62,000 to provide support in safe accommodation.
- 12.2 The needs assessment highlighted gaps in the provision of safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse in Rutland, relating to the availability of safe accommodation for single individuals, people with disabilities and older people experiencing elder abuse. Work is currently in progress to look at ways we can increase capacity which may have a cost implication to the Council to provide such provision based on the needs assessment.

13 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 The Council is required by law to comply with the duties introduced by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

14 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

14.1 In order to gather information from agencies to complete the needs assessment an information sharing agreement was produced together with SafeLives. All victims/survivors of domestic abuse were identified through our data collection exercise to ensure their safety.

15 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

15.1 The needs assessment highlighted gaps in provision of support and safe accommodation for people with protected characteristics and older people, and therefore the local authority must give due consideration to maintaining the rights of individuals under the Equality Act 2021.

16 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

16.1 This legislation requires oversight from the community safety team in Rutland to ensure that the duties under the Act are being achieved. Community Safety data and information need to continue to shape the offers in relation to domestic abuse priorities in Rutland.

17 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

17.1 The Domestic Abuse Strategy seeks to ensure appropriate support is offered to victims of domestic abuse to maintain their health and wellbeing.

18 ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

18.1 Human Resource implications – highlighted the need to ensure there is a joined approach to supporting staff who identify as victims of domestic abuse to ensure they receive the support needed.

19 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

19.1 It is recommended that Scrutiny Committee endorses the Domestic Abuse Strategy and the development of the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board incorporated within the Safer Rutland Partnership, providing oversight of domestic abuse within the locality, ensuring appropriate support is offered to victims in safe accommodation, by the monitoring of the effectiveness of the strategy.

20 BACKGROUND PAPERS

20.1 No background papers.

21 APPENDICES

- 21.1 A Domestic Abuse Strategy
- 21.2 B Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.







Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024

Version & Policy Number	Version 1 - DRAFT
Guardian	Local Domestic Abuse Partnership / Safer Rutland Partnership
Date Produced	October 2021
Next Review Date	January 2024
Approved by LPB / SRP	







Foreword

Cllr Lucy Stephenson, Chair of the Safer Rutland Partnership and Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.

Welcome to Rutland's Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021 – 2024.

This strategy outlines how Rutland County Council will work together with its partners to meet the requirements of the new 2021 Domestic Abuse Act including specific duties to provide support for adult and child victims and survivors of domestic abuse in safe accommodation as part of the statutory requirements within part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act. The Safer Rutland Partnership and Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board has primary responsibility for tackling the issue of domestic abuse, and for developing and implementing this strategy, which covers a three-year period.

The issue around domestic abuse is complex, and we welcome the introduction of the new 2021 Domestic Abuse Act which recognises the wider context of abuse, where this is not only physical or sexual, but includes controlling and coercive harmful behaviours. The Act also recognises children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right, as well as young people who become victims of domestic abuse in their own relationships, to ensure effective support is provided at the right time.

Signed into law on 29 April 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act aims to provide further protections to the millions of people who experience domestic abuse, as well as strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators. Part 4 of the Act recognises the critical importance of support for victims and their children within relevant safe accommodation, as they rebuild their lives after the trauma of domestic abuse.

This is a corporate strategy owned by Rutland County Council as well as the partners who work with us to provide important services and support for our residents. Our aim is to help people and communities in Rutland become free from the harm caused by and the impact of domestic abuse.

Success will be achieved through the reduction of incidents of domestic abuse and providing support to victims/survivors by the collaborative working and efforts of all partner agencies and services responsible for the prevention of crime, health and social care.







Our Vision – we want to prevent offending, protect all victims and ensure they have the support they need when they need it

Executive Summary

"Domestic abuse is an abhorrent crime perpetrated on victims and their families by those who should love and care for them. This landmark Bill will help transform the response to domestic abuse, helping to prevent offending, protect victims and ensure they have the support they need." Victoria Atkins MP, Minister for Safeguarding¹

This Domestic Abuse Strategy is a partnership strategy detailing the relevant duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The Act aims to raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families, further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice and strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies.

Part 4 of the Act details duties on relevant local authorities to assess the need for accommodation-based support by the completion of a strategic needs assessment and this strategy identifies the priorities to provide such support for victims. The Act is clear that children of domestic abuse victims who have seen, heard, or experienced the effect of that abuse are victims in their own right. Support should be provided to any child staying with a victim in safe accommodation.

Areas are required to provide safe accommodation support which should include advocacy support, domestic abuse prevention advice, specialist support for victims with relevant protected characteristics and for victims with additional and / or complex needs, children's support to include play therapy and child advocacy, housing-related support, advice service including accessing benefits and support into work, and counselling and therapy.

Summary of the findings from our needs assessment:

In Rutland the following number of incidents of domestic abuse were reported by all agencies in the last three years:

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
529	466	453

- The highest age categories across the period are 25-34 and 35-44 years.
- There was an increase year on year in the number of 18–24-year-old victims.
- Child victims under 18 years account for under 12% of all victims in 2020-21.
- Children 0-5 years account for around half of all child victims.
- There has been a decrease in reports to all agencies except for adult social care.

The majority of adult victims are White or White British females. Data shows there has been a significant increase in the number of domestic abuse victims requesting homelessness assistance in Rutland.

¹ Domestic Abuse Act 2021: overarching factsheet - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)







UAVA receive all referrals to a single front door jointly commissioned by Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR), which includes referrals for Safe Accommodation. There are nine dispersal units for victims available in Rutland. The Council of Europe recommendation is 1 family place per 10,000 population therefore this provision is above the recommended number.

We have identified the priorities below to address the conclusions from our needs assessment:

- Raising awareness of domestic abuse and the prevalence locally, which includes
 ensuring we are professionally curious, exploring potential hidden harm and under
 reporting of abuse in Rutland to protect and support more victims, and raising local
 awareness of domestic abuse to enable our community to recognise domestic abuse to
 support a change in attitude.
- Safeguarding people at risk and providing support for victims and survivors by
 working more effectively with agencies to ensure we listen to the voice of victims and
 survivors that enables the shaping of services and support, to meet local need, and
 ensuring victims have the confidence to report incidents of domestic abuse, including
 young people who in their own relationships can become victims of domestic abuse.
- Changing behaviours of perpetrators and preventing reoffending by providing effective perpetrator management programmes, to enable victims and children to remain living in their homes and communities, reducing disruption and trauma.
- Ensuring all agencies/partners work together to provide a multi-agency response to tackling domestic abuse
- Providing support for victim and survivors in relevant safe accommodation by providing specific targeted support for victims of domestic abuse that empowers victims and builds confidence, develops resilience and independence, and increases safety.

An action plan will be developed alongside this strategy which details how these priorities will be met and will focus on short and long-term actions.





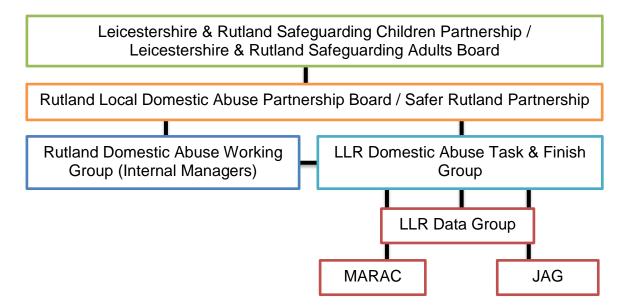


Domestic Abuse Governance in Rutland

In order to exercise its functions under section 57 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, all relevant local authorities in England must appoint a section 58 Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.

Rutland's Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (LDAPB) incorporated within the Safer Rutland Partnership (SRP), has overall responsibility for the oversight of domestic abuse in Rutland including support within Safe Accommodation for victim-survivors and their children, and for the implementation and monitoring of the effectiveness of this strategy and action plan. The LDAPB / SRP meets each quarter and is chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure, Highways, Transportation & Road Safety and attended by the Strategic Lead for Domestic Abuse (Strategic Director Children and Families).

Rutland is joined up with Leicester and Leicestershire in many of its functions and service delivery to include the delivery of specialist domestic abuse services and our additional local governance groups consist of the following:









What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is common but often hidden and therefore can be difficult to quantify. Anyone can be affected, regardless of their gender, age or race.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales year ending March 2020, reported an estimated 5.5% of adults aged 16 to 74 years (2.3 million) experienced domestic abuse in the last year. There was no significant change in the prevalence of domestic abuse experiences in the last year compared with the year ending March 2019, however the police recorded a total of 1,288,018 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police)² in the year ending March 2020, suggesting that more victims are reporting to the police, as well as better recording of crime by the police.

Domestic abuse is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality, with women disproportionately reported as victims. Women are more likely to experience repeat victimisation, being physically injured or killed as result of domestic abuse and experience non-physical abuse (including emotional and financial abuse), than men.

Domestic abuse as defined by the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 is abusive behaviour of a person towards another when each are over the age of 16 years and are personally connected to each other. Personally connected refers to two people if the following applies:

- They are or have been married to each other
- They are or have been civil partners to each other
- They have agreed to marry one another
- They have entered into a civil partnership agreement
- They are or have been in an intimate relationship with each other
- They each have or there has been a time when they each have had a parental relationship to the same child, under 18 years (parent of a child or parental responsibility for a child)
- They are relatives

Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of their gender, their age, their ethnicity, their socio-economic status, their sexuality, or their background. It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct, and a victim of domestic abuse may experience the following:

Physical abuse

Physical abuse, and violent or threatening behaviour, are forms of abusive behaviour, and can include being kicked, punched, scalded, poisoned, being denied access to medical treatment or equipment and this causing harm, and violence against pets.

Sexual abuse

Many victims of domestic abuse experience behaviour that is sexually abusive in relationships, including rape, being pressured into having sex or doing a sexual act, being pressured into having unsafe sex, being forced to being involved in or watching pornography, and being hurt during sex.

2 Office for National Statistics, 'Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales: year ending March 2020' <u>Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England</u> and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)







Controlling or coercive behaviour

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent, and coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation. This can include control or monitoring someone's daily activities, isolating someone from their friends or family, withholding medication or treatment, using children as a form of control, including parental alienation and manipulation, and making threats to expose sensitive information.

Emotional and psychological abuse

Domestic abuse often involves emotional or psychological abuse, and can include manipulation of a person's anxieties or beliefs, withholding affection, turning children and friends against the victim, stopping someone from seeing friends or relatives, and being insulted, including in front of others and about race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, faith, ability to parent and ability to work.

Economic abuse

Economic abuse includes any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on an individual's ability to acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or to obtain goods or services. This can include an individual's ability to acquire food, clothes, transportation, and utilities. Economic abuse can also constitute controlling or coercive behaviour.

Verbal abuse

Examples of verbal abuse include repeated yelling and shouting, verbal humiliation either in private or in company, being laughed at and made fun of, insults and threats, and mocking someone about their disability, gender, sexual orientation, physical appearance etc.

Online and digital abuse

Perpetrators can use technology and social media as a means of controlling or coercing victims. This happens frequently both during and after relationships with abusers and can include placing false or malicious information about a victim on their or others social media, being trolled, non-consensual distribution of private sexual photographs and films, hacking into, monitoring, or controlling email accounts, social media profiles and phone calls, using GPS locators on items such as phones and computers, and use of hidden cameras.







The Power and Control Wheel

The power and control wheel³ illustrates the common themes and experiences of victims of abuse, as well as the tactics used by perpetrators.

It is important to note that the model below generally applies to women experiencing abuse by men in intimate partner relationships. However, the same means of abuse are used by perpetrators of either gender, in same sex relationships and in family abuse; the difference will be on how much they rely on any one form of abuse to gain power and control within their circumstances.



3 Wheels - Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (theduluthmodel.org)







The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The aim of the 2021 Act is to:

- To raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families.
- Further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice.
- Strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies.

The act will:

- Create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse
- Establish in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner's functions and powers
- Provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order
- Place a duty on local authorities in England to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation
- Prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales.
- Create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts.
- Clarify the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989 to prevent family proceedings that can further traumatise victims.
- Extend the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse.
- Extend the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress (known as the "revenge porn" offence) to cover threats to disclose such material
- Create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of another person.
- Clarify by restating in statute law the general proposition that a person may not consent to the infliction of serious harm and, by extension, is unable to consent to their own death.
- Extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences.
- Provide for a statutory domestic abuse perpetrator strategy.
- Enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody.
- Place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme ("Clare's law") on a statutory footing.
- Provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance.
- Ensure that where a local authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy) this must be a secure lifetime tenancy.
- Prohibit GPs and other health professionals in general practice from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid.
- Provide for a statutory code of practice relating to the processing of domestic abuse data for immigration purposes.







Part 4 of the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act - Specific duties to provide support for victims and survivors in Safe Accommodation

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requires Local Authorities to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to the right accommodation-based support when they need it. Victims may need to live in a variety of different forms of relevant safe accommodation that may consist of the following:

- **Refuge Accommodation** A refuge is a safe house where women and children who are experiencing domestic abuse can stay free from fear.
- **Dispersed accommodation** Safe self-contained accommodation with the same level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge.
- Sanctuary Schemes Also called Target Hardening is a survivor centred initiative that aims to enable a victim to remain in their own home and ensure safety by the installation of additional security to the property and perimeter
- Specialist safe accommodation Dedicated specialist support to victims with relevant protected characteristics and/or complex needs such as specialist refuges for Black, Asian, and racially minoritised, LGBT+, and disabled victims and their children
- Move on and/or second stage accommodation accommodation temporarily housing victims, who no longer require the intensive support
 provided in a refuge, but still require a lower level of domestic abuse specific support
 before they move to fully independent and permanent accommodation. May include
 support accommodation schemes
- Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation a safe place with support giving victims an opportunity to spend a temporary period of time to consider and make decisions in an environment which is self-contained and safe.

Accommodation such as Bed and Breakfast accommodation is not considered relevant safe accommodation and specifically excluded in the Regulations.

Part 4 of the 2021 Act details duties on relevant local authorities to assess the need for accommodation-based support and prepare strategies to provide such support for victims. The 2021 Act is clear that children of domestic abuse victims who have seen, heard, or experienced the effect of that abuse are victims in their own right. Support should be provided to any child staying with a victim in safe accommodation. The vast majority of children of victims residing in safe accommodation will also be victims in their own right.







Domestic Abuse Support within relevant Safe Accommodation is described as:

- Overall management of services within relevant safe accommodation including capacity building, support and supervision of staff, payroll, financial and day to day management of services and maintaining relationships with the local authority (such functions will often be undertaken by a service manager)
- Support with the day-to-day running of the service for example scheduling times for counselling sessions, group activities (such functions may often be undertaken by administrative or office staff)
- Advocacy support development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers).
- Domestic abuse prevention advice support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online), and to prevent revictimisation.

Specialist support for victims

- Designed specifically for victims with relevant protected characteristics such as faith services, translators and interpreters, immigration advice, interpreters for victims identifying as deaf and / or hard of hearing, and dedicated support for LGBTQ+ victims.
- Designed specifically for victims with additional and / or complex needs such as, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support, including sign posting accordingly.
- Children's support including play therapy, child advocacy or a specialist children worker
- **Housing-related support** providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home, rights to existing accommodation and advice on how to live safely and independently.
- Advice service including financial and legal support, including accessing benefits, support into work and establishing independent financial arrangements; and,
- **Counselling and therapy** including group support for both adults and children, including emotional support.







Rutland Domestic Abuse Profile

In order to capture a picture of the prevalence of domestic abuse in Rutland we commissioned SafeLives, a leading charity committed to ending domestic abuse, to complete a local strategic needs assessment - **the source of the below data is the needs assessment**. Information was sought from all agencies working with victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

Number of incidents of domestic abuse reported by all agencies in Rutland in the last three years:

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
529	466	453

Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool it is estimated **410** older victims have experienced domestic abuse in Rutland in the last year.

The number of child victims identified by all agencies has decreased over the 3-year period.

In relation to Homelessness identification, as of July 2021, there have been **14** victims identified since March 2021, showing a significant increase in the number of domestic abuse victims requesting homelessness assistance.

The number of high-risk domestic abuse cases heard at MARAC has decreased each year over the 3-year period, from 33 (2018-19) to 16 (2020-21) cases.

Leicestershire Police report relative stability in the number of domestic abuse related crimes and incidents reports in Rutland across the three years.

There were no domestic homicides in Rutland, in the three-year period.

Ages of victims/survivors:

The number of **child victims** varies over the 3 years. The highest age category across all 3 years is **0-5 years**, which equates to around half of all child victims.

For **adult victims**, the age range varies across the 3 years. The highest age categories across the period are 25-34 and 35-44 years. There was also an increase year on year in the number of 18–24-year-old victims. The number of older victims has doubled from 2019-20 to 2020-21.

Gender of victims/survivors:

The majority of victims or survivors of domestic abuse in Rutland, aged over 18, are female.

There were no male victims at high-risk of domestic abuse heard at MARAC in the three-year period. The SafeLives recommendation is 5-10% of cases heard are male victim. Around a third of victims of domestic abuse in Rutland are male. Data collected shows **123** male victims were identified by services in 2020-2021.

Ethnicity of victims/survivors:

Across all three years White or White British is the most prevalent ethnic group. A majority of victims' ethnicity was recorded as Other. The largest portion of ethnicity that was captured was







by Children's Social Care. The table below is inclusive of Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised groups:

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
38 – 8.72%	29 – 4.05%	33 – 7.28%

Disability:

No victims were identified through data gathering as having a learning disability to ensure victims remain anonymous when reporting low numbers, however we know women with learning disabilities and/or autism are three times more likely to experience domestic abuse than their non-disabled peers⁴.

Separate data from MARAC however, for high-risk cases, shows an increase in victims with an identified disability in 2020-21.

Public Health England (2015)⁵ report that **disabled people**:

- Experience disproportionately higher rates of domestic abuse.
- Experience domestic abuse for longer periods of time, and more severe and frequent abuse than non-disabled people.
- Encounter differing dynamics of domestic abuse, which may include more severe coercion, control or abuse from carers.

Sexual Identity:

There is limited data related to sexual identify with the majority unknown. According to research more than one in four gay men and lesbian women and more than one in three bisexual people report at least one form of domestic abuse since the age of 16⁶. Whilst victims are under identified overall, they are represented at MARAC.

Socio-economic Characteristics:

Data regarding socio-economic characteristics is very limited with the majority unknown. Limited data capture relating to socio-economic characteristics can have a significant impact on victims' ability to access appropriate services when they need them, for example:

- Marital status: divorce and matrimonial rights to a home
- **Family make-up:** needs of a single person and those with children
- Income
- Benefits: a victim seeking safe accommodation may experience delays in claiming benefit, resulting in arrears. In addition, the impact in the change of circumstance affecting benefits

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480942/Disability_and_domestic_abuse_topic_overview_FIN_AL.pdf

6 Recognise and Respond: Strengthening advocacy for LGBT+ survivors of domestic abuse







⁴ Outcomes for disabled people in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk

⁵ Disability & Domestic Abuse

Research in the UK has consistently found vulnerability to domestic abuse to be associated with low income, economic strain, and benefit receipt. It is therefore useful to consider information available that provides insights in this area. There are three wards within Rutland that account for the highest prevalence of domestic abuse, with one over twice the national average rate of prevalence.

Local UAVA Insights Data

UAVA (United Against Violence and Abuse), commissioned by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, provides a single point of entry to dedicated domestic abuse support.

From their most recent report (Quarter 1 2020-21) we can evidence the following local profile for victims accessing this service:

Most common referral routes (Rutland):

Helpline	MARAC	Other
67%	17%	17%

Client Demographics (duplicates removed)

Client age (Rutland):

White British and Irish	ВМЕ
83%	17%

Client age (Rutland):

21-30 years	31-40 years	51-60 years	61+ years
50%	17%	17%	17%

Gender (all clients):

Female	Male
95%	4%

Sexual orientation (Rutland):

Heterosexual
100%

Client with children or young people involved (Rutland): 100%

Abuse profile at intake:

The most common abuse type is jealous or controlling behaviour, following by physical abuse, harassment and stalking, and sexual abuse.







Conclusions of our Strategic Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (2021)

Calculated using the SafeLives prevalence tool, an estimated 1690 adult victims experienced domestic abuse in the last year, with around 8% experiencing both partner and family abuse. This is higher than identified in the needs assessment. The number of victims reported by all agencies has decreased across the 3 years, which is not unexpected with the impact of Covid-19 and subsequent restrictions, reducing the opportunity for victims to reach out for support in ways that they might have done prior to the pandemic.

- The highest age categories across the period are 25-34 and 35-44 years.
- There was an increase year on year in the number of 18–24-year-old victims.
- Child victims under 18 years account for under 12% of all victims in 2020-21.
- Children 0-5 years account for around half of all child victims.
- There has been a decrease in reports to all agencies except for adult social care.

Data provided around protected characteristics has been inconsistent, and in some cases difficult to analyse effectively. However, it is evident that the number of victims with protected characteristics are under identified in data collection by most agencies. This would suggest that there are a significant number of hidden victims within Rutland that are not accessing appropriate support services. Implementing a more robust and consistent approach to data collection will ensure a clearer understanding of local need and enable more effective planning and commissioning of services.

There has also been an increasing trend with victims requesting homelessness assistance with the same number of victims seeking support in the first 4 months of the current year as there were in 2019-20. This increase suggests that more victims may present in need of safe accommodation, which consequently may increase the need for additional support.

There were no domestic homicides in Rutland, whilst in England and Wales there has been a dramatic increase. This national increase highlights the potential risk to victims who are unable to escape an abusive home environment, have recently separated or are attempting to separate.

Safe Accommodation Provision:

All referrals to UAVA enter through a single front door commissioned by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR), which includes referrals for Safe Accommodation.

The number of safe accommodation (dispersal units) spaces in Rutland of 9 is at the recommended level per 10,000 population, provided through Women's Aid. The Council of Europe⁷ recommendation is 1 family place per 10,000 population therefore this provision is above the recommended number.

7 Final Activity Report (coe.int)







Referrals for Safe Accommodation are increasing. 61% of referrals to UAVA were successful in 2020-21. The source of referrals has consistently been the Local Helpline and DA Services. The exception to this is in 2020-21 when there was one referral from Housing Services, one from the local authority and 3 Other.

The average length of stay in Safe Accommodation across LLR ranges from 102 days to 113. Consideration should be given to recovery support that will enable survivors to move on to suitable accommodation and free up space for higher risk victims to access. Not all victims referred for Safe Accommodation will access this for a variety of reasons to include the location of the safe accommodation which may disrupt the education of children and prevent travel to work. A further understanding of these reasons is required to ensure provision can meet the needs of victims, particularly to ensure victims can remain living safely in their own homes and communities.

No data was available regarding the ages of victims or the number of children within the dispersed accommodation or within households which have accessed the sanctuary scheme. When considering that children account for a large portion of all victims and particularly children aged 0-5 account for almost half of all child victims, a high number may also access safe accommodation.

Support for children, such as play therapy and other therapeutic support, must be available in all forms of safe accommodation including Sanctuary Schemes/Target Hardening. Support for victims as Parents must also be available.

It is also fundamental that support is received from statutory services such as midwifery, health visitors and school nurse whilst victims are within relevant safe accommodation.







Our Domestic Abuse Priorities for 2021 – 2024

A delivery plan, responding to the conclusions of the needs assessment will be developed which details how the objectives within this strategy will be met and will focus on the short and long-term actions identified, and address any identified gaps in relation to the new duties.

1. Raising awareness of domestic abuse and the prevalence locally

- Ensuring professional curiosity to explore hidden harm and potential under reporting of abuse in Rutland to protect and support more victims.
- Awareness raising campaigns in order that our community recognises domestic abuse to support a change in attitude.

2. Safeguarding people at risk and providing support for victims and survivors

- Work more effectively with agencies to ensure we listen to the voice of victims and survivors that enables the shaping of services and support, to meet local need.
- Victims will have the confidence to report incidents of domestic abuse and receive the right support from relevant agencies.
- Recognising that young people in their own relationships can become victims of domestic abuse to ensure they receive the right support early.

3. Changing behaviours of perpetrators and preventing reoffending

• Consideration given to perpetrator management programmes, which could enable victims and children to remain in their homes and communities, reducing disruption and trauma already experienced.

4. Ensuring all agencies/partners work together to provide a multi-agency response to tackling domestic abuse

5. Support for victim and survivors in relevant safe accommodation

 Providing specific targeted support for victims of domestic abuse that empowers victims and builds confidence, develops resilience and independence, and increases safety.







What we are already doing to support victims of domestic abuse in Rutland and any gaps in relation to the new duties:

We have recently jointly re-commissioned our domestic abuse service across LLR and there will be increased oversight of this contract to ensure effective monitoring of the support offered and outcomes achieved for victims. *Links to priorities 1, 2, 4 and 5.*

Adult Social Care

The link to the Safeguarding Adults Board procedures details the duties and responsibilities of all agencies across LLR relating to domestic abuse, violence and coercive control. https://www.llradultsafeguarding.co.uk/domestic-abuse-violence-and-coercive-control/?hilite=%27domestic%27%2C%27abuse%27

Children's Social Care

All referrals for domestic abuse go through UAVA, and MARAC is utilised to coordinate and facilitate a multi-agency safety plan for critical cases. A safety plan is developed by children's social care with the child in a way that they understand. In responding to concerns around domestic abuse, we help children and young people distinguish between healthy and abusive behaviours. Children's social care always seeks to engage the perpetrator where it is possible to do so, we assess the risk and put safety first when engaging with perpetrators.

An area of focus in relation to the new duties is to ensure that we strengthen our offer to children and ensure that they have access to support services specific to domestic abuse. *Links to priority 2, 4 and 5.*

Community Safety

There is a need for increased awareness of domestic abuse within all of our communities, particularly ensuring the signs of abuse are understood where there are concerns for potential hidden abuse. *Links to priority 1.*

Perpetrator Programme - The Safer Rutland Partnership is the beneficiary of the Partnership Locality Fund that currently funds the Changing Behaviour of Perpetrators programme. *Links to priority 3.*

Sanctuary Scheme - 24/7 Locks commissioned service partner to undertake works. Some victims in need of sanctuary support do not report these matters for an array of reasons and lose out on some of the benefits of this sanctuary scheme support. *Links to priority 5.*

Housing Options

Housing has always and continues to manage domestic abuse in line with the new Act.

There is a fully established MARAC process for LLR and housing options plays an active role in this. *Links to priority 4.*







The gaps in relation to housing are out of area referrals where local authorities do not always accept the referral and often state there is no local connection. This is particularly challenging for service families and also in relation to refuge accommodation and the lack of commissioned accommodation for Rutland for emergency housing. *Links to priority 5.*

Impact Monitoring and Measuring – How will we know we have made a difference?

- More victims / survivors of domestic abuse will report incidents of domestic abuse to the Police and access specialist Domestic Abuse Services
- Repeat victimisation will reduce
- More people who need it will be able to access safe accommodation and support
- Children and young people will receive support early to minimise their experiences of trauma
- The voices of victims and survivors will be heard and will tell us they feel safe and receive effective support
- Where possible, victims will be supported to remain living in their own homes in safety.







Domestic Abuse Support

UAVA - United Against Violence and Abuse *

UAVA is a consortium of three local specialist providers of domestic abuse and sexual violence services – Women's Aid Leicestershire Ltd, FreeVA and Living without Abuse. UAVA provides coordinated domestic and sexual violence services across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland for any female or male over 13 years.

A special Freephone number will provide confidential support, information, safety advice, risk assessments and access to all UAVA services for anyone living in Rutland affected by or at risk of domestic abuse or sexual violence.

In an emergency, always dial 999.

Helpline - 0808 80 200 28. Text only support - 07715 994 962 https://www.uava.org.uk/

* Dedicated domestic abuse support commissioned by Rutland County Council

National Domestic Abuse Helpline

The free 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline National Helpline, provided by Refuge, is available in confidence 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

0808 2000 247

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk and www.refuge.org.uk

The Hope Project

The Hope Project is a multi-agency project aiming to support those experiencing or at risk of domestic violence who have a housing requirement and additional needs. We are a collaboration of specialist teams operating in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland area.

To confirm your eligibility or request further information, please call us.

0800 055 6519 and 0330 002 1010

Family Action

Family Action works to tackle some of the most complex and difficult issues facing families today – including financial hardship, mental health problems, social isolation, learning disabilities, domestic abuse, or substance misuse and alcohol problems.

020 7254 6251

www.family-action.org.uk

ManKind







We support men suffering from domestic abuse. This can range from actual violence or object throwing to mental abuse such as constant bullying or constant insults. Confidential helpline is available for male victims of domestic abuse and male victims of domestic violence across the UK.

01823 334244 - Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm www.mankind.org.uk

Respect - Men's Advice Line

Men's Advice Line is a confidential helpline, email and webchat service for male victims of domestic abuse.

We offer advice and emotional support to men who experience abuse, and signpost to other vital services that help men keep themselves (and their children) safe.

0808 801 0327 (Mon, Weds 9am - 8pm; Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am - 5pm). Calls are free within the UK and will not show on phone bills.

www.mensadviceline.org.uk

Citizen's Advice Rutland

The Citizens Advice Service provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. It values diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination

The service aims to provide the advice people need for the problems they face, to improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives. We provide quality information, advice and representation by face-to-face, telephone, email, web-based information system, home visit and outreach service.

01572 723 494

http://www.citizensadvicerutland.org.uk/







A large print version of this document is available on request



Rutland County Council Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP

> 01572 722 577 enquiries@rutland.gov.uk www.rutland.gov.uk











Rutland County Council – Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Duty

About SafeLives

We are SafeLives, the UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for everyone and for good.

We work with organisations across the UK to transform the response to domestic abuse. We want what you would want for your best friend. We listen to survivors, putting their voices at the heart of our thinking. We look at the whole picture for each individual and family to get the right help at the right time to make families everywhere safe and well. And we challenge perpetrators to change, asking 'why doesn't he stop?' rather than 'why doesn't she leave?' This applies whatever the gender of the victim or perpetrator and whatever the nature of their relationship.

Last year alone, nearly 11,000 professionals working on the frontline received our training. Over 65,000 adults at risk of serious harm or murder and more than 85,000 children received support through dedicated multi-agency support designed by us and delivered with partners. In the last three years, over 1,000 perpetrators have been challenged and supported to change by interventions we created with partners, and that's just the start. Together we can end domestic abuse. Forever. For everyone.

Ending domestic abuse

© SafeLives 2016

Glossary

Abrev	Definition	Abrev	Definition
DA	Domestic Abuse	NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds
DAHA	Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance	RCC	Rutland County Council
Dash	Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Honour-Based	UAVA	United Against Violence and Abuse
	Violence	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
DHR HBV	Domestic Homicide Review		
HBV	Honour Based Violence		
Idva	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor		
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence		
LA	Local Authorities		
LPB	Local Partnership Board		
Marac	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference		
MSF	Most Similar Force (Police		

Ending domestic abuse

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Content

- 1. About this Project
- 2. Local Partnership Board
- 3. Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment
- 4. Safe Accommodation Provision
- **25.** Survivor Voice
 - 6. Recommendations
 - 7. Appendix A

Ending domestic abuse



1. About this project

Context

SafeLives have been commissioned to provide support and coordination to Rutland County Council to ensure the area is ready to implement the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and their statutory duties under the Act.

This report outlines our findings, following review and analysis of data provided by agencies and organisations across Rutland

We are very grateful to everyone who participated in this needs assessment. Their willingness to share information and expertise helped us immensely in drawing together a myriad of detail.

02

Ending domestic abuse

Project aims and objectives

The project aims were to support RCC in gaining an understanding of the current landscape for safe accommodation to enable effective planning and commissioning.

Key objectives were:

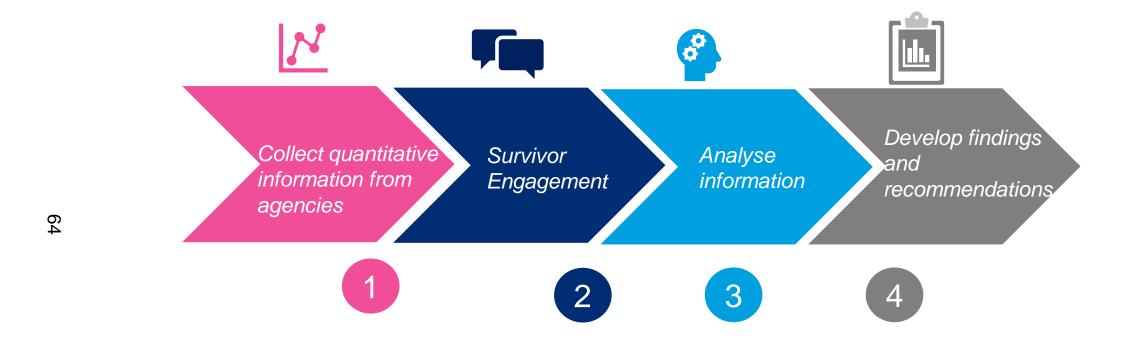
- Carry out a needs assessment of safe accommodation across Rutland
- Identify a baseline of safe accommodation provision
- Identify gaps and needs in safe accommodation provision

Data was collated using the MHCLG needs assessment tool, comparative data from SafeLives national data sets was used and analysed using a number of SafeLives tools including the prevalence tool.

This work will enable Rutland County Council to gain a clearer understanding of local need in relation to safe accommodation and will help to inform their domestic abuse strategy and any subsequent commissioning.

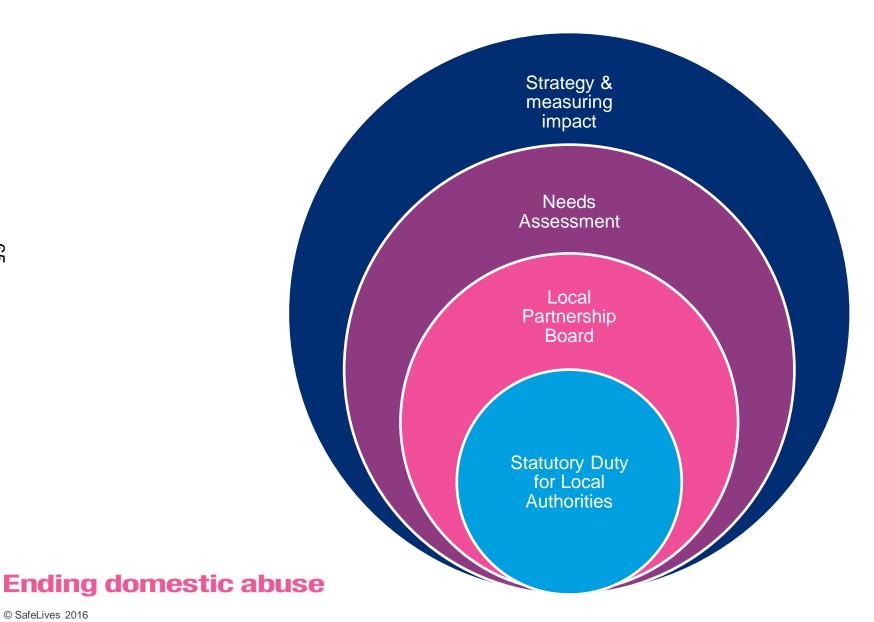
Ending domestic abuse

Our Approach



A full list of agencies providing data is in appendix A

What is Required for The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Statutory Duty





Statutory Duty

The Bill completed its parliamentary passage and achieved Royal Assent on 29th April 2021.

For Local Authorities it places a statutory duty on Tier one local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within refuges and other safe accommodation. It has created a four-part statutory framework for the delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation and provides clarity over governance and accountability.

Local Authorities will be required to appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which will carry out a governance and consultative role as it performs certain specified functions.

0,



Provide advice to Rutland about its functions under Section 55 of the DA Act

- Core membership as set out in the DA Act and statutory guidance
- Authentic voice for both adult and child victims essential
- Responsibilities are
 - Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area, including those who require cross-border support
 - Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment
 - Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions)
 - Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.



Assess the need for accommodationbased domestic abuse support for all victims Rutland, including those who require cross-border support

- When Every 3 years
- How Using the template provided gather data from local sources
- Who Tier 1 LA to carry out through DA Local Partnership Boards, others who
 must co-operate are Tier 2 LA, DA services, refuge services.
- What Mapping current provision for safe accommodation and support
 - Mapping current need, who and how much need for safe accommodation and support



Develop and publish: a strategy for provision of support, using the needs assessment

Measuring impact

- Develop a domestic abuse strategy encompassing the provision of support informed by the needs assessment
- Implement the strategy through commissioning
- Tier 1 LAs in England must send an annual report to the Secretary of State on how it is realising the strategy
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.

Ending domestic abuse



2. Local Partnership Board

Local Partnership Board

Rutland CC have commissioned SafeLives to support them with creating the LPB to ensure that is right for Rutland and meets the requirements as set out in the Statutory duty. This will form part of our next steps in the area along with continuing our Public Health Approach to Domestic Abuse work.

Currently the Safer Rutland Partnership holds strategic oversight for Domestic Abuse.

The multi-agency LPB will play a crucial role going forward.

Under the new duty in the 2021 Act, Tier One authorities in England will be required to appoint a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to support them in undertaking:

7

- Local needs assessments,
- Developing and monitoring local strategies,
- Mapping activities,
- Ensuring representation of marginalised groups and those who are underrepresented in local services.

Alongside the Statutory Duty to appoint and convene the DALPB the Act and accompanying Statutory guidance sets out that there must be specific representation.

This also provides an opportunity to consider how this links to your areas integrated care system development and links to new systems boards and feedback mechanism

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DA Partnership Board Membership

We recommended involving your commissioned child advocacy service in this process to provide a representative.

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We recommend that there is a representative from a by and for victims service such as LGBTQ+, Black, Asian and Racially minoritised groups where possible.

Membership Membership		
Chair	Representative of the Tier One authority	
Representative of Tier Two authorities within the Tier One authority area	Representative of the interests of adult victims of domestic abuse	
Representative of the interests of children victims of domestic abuse	Representative of the interests of charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in its area	
Representative of the interests of charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in its area (by & for Services)	Representative of the interests of persons who provide, or have functions relating to, health care services in its area	
Representative of the interests of persons with functions relating to policing or criminal justice in its area	Representative for Housing Services	

We recommend involving your survivor network in this process to provide a representative.

New roles have been created in local communities through the NHS 10 year plan – social prescribers, Health Coaches, PCN Care Coordinators, all have great insight and can also support survivor voice

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3. Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment

Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment

The Safe Accommodation Needs assessment is a comprehensive tool that enables you to capture data covering a range of themes relating to safe accommodation.

This needs assessment will inform your strategy, not only for safe accommodation but for the domestic abuse system as a whole. It is important to view this in the context of a whole picture approach, not only doing what is necessary but thinking of the art of the possible.

Survivor voice is an essential component of this needs assessment and throughout the whole Statutory Duty.

By listening to the authentic, unmediated voice of victims and survivors, we truly understand the barriers,

challenges and good practice they experience.

What can we learn, what are our gaps and how we can build on our success.

Ending domestic abuse

Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment

Within this first section we will be looking at the demographic for all victims accessing services. This is not inclusive of those accessing safe accommodation as this will be address further in the document.

Data was not provided by Health partners or Housing Providers.

Children's social care capture data regarding the whole family through their Initial Assessment process, therefore, some data provided may include perpetrators.

Leicestershire Police have provided victim demographic data for all DA offences. However, the demographic data does not include those victims whose contact with Leicestershire Police was classed as a DA incident, rather than a DA crime. As a result, there are several victims whose details have not be captured and, therefore, we cannot include those in our analysis.

This means that the number of victims may be higher than what has been identified in this report.

The data may also include duplicate counting as victims may have approached or been in contact with multiple services/agencies.

A full list of agencies who supplied data can be found in Appendix A.

Ending domestic abuse

Overview 2018 - 2019



Of the 529 records providing age demographics





Under 18

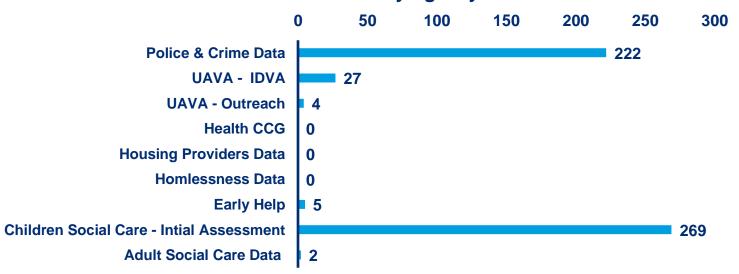


Age 16 - 74



Over 75

Identification by Agency



Ending domestic abuse

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Overview 2019 - 2020



Of the 466 records providing age demographics

169

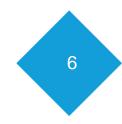
Total number of victims



Under 18



Age 16 - 74



Over 75

Police & Crime Data UAVA - IDVA UAVA - Outreach Health CCG Housing Providers Data Homlessness Data Early Help 17 253

2

Identification by Agency

*those age 16/17 may be child victims whose parents are in DA Relationships and/or victims of IPV

Children Social Care - Intial Assessment

Adult Social Care Data

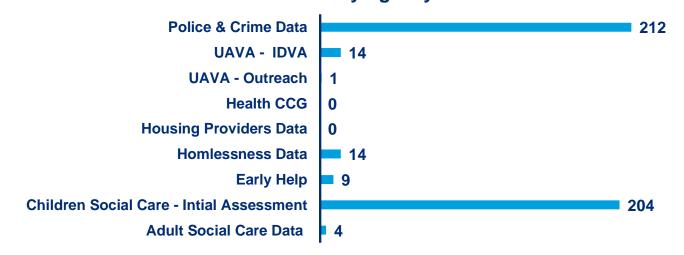
Overview 2020 - 2021



Of the 453 records providing age demographics

Total number of victims

Referrals by Agency





Under 18



Age 16 - 74



Over 75

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Overview

Number of Victims

Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, developed in line with our research, it shows that **5470** adults victims in RCC have experienced Domestic Abuse at some point in their lives since the age of 16 with around 15% experiencing both partner and family abuse

It also shows that **1690** adult victims have experienced Domestic Abuse in the last year with around 8% experiencing both partner and family abuse. This is significantly higher than the number identified in the needs assessment across all 3 years.

2018/2019 2019/2020 2020/2021 \$\displaystyle{1}{2020} \displaystyle{1}{2020/2021} \di

The overall number of victims decreased by 11.9% from 2018/19 – 2019/20. It should be noted that due to system and recording functionality, it was not possible to provide homelessness data for 2018/19. There is a further decrease of 2.78% from 2019/20 - 2020/21.

The number of victims aged over 75 remains stable from 2018/19 – 2019/20 yet there is an increase of **133.3%** in 2020/21 from 6 to 14 year old victims. Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool we would estimate that **410** older victims have experienced DA in Rutland in the last year.

Ending domestic abuse

Children

The number of child victims has decreased over the 3 year period from 104 in 2018/19, 103 in 2019/20 to 52 in 2020/21.



Children's Social care have provided data regarding those who have been identified as requiring an initial assessment due to Domestic Abuse. They have also provided data regarding those children whose assessment has been progressed to a full referral.

80	Year	No of Children Identified for Initial Assessment	No of Children Progressed to a Referral	No of Whole Family Members Identified
	2018/19	94	82	269
	2019/20	84	57	169
	2020/21	44	33	204

From this we can again see that the number of children identified has decreased by **10.63%** from 2018/19 – 2019/20 and by a further **47.61%** in 2020/21.

In terms of those progressing to the referral process, in 2018/19, **87.23**% of Initial Assessments progressed, this reduced to **67.85**% in 2019/20 before increasing again in 2020/21 to **75**%. It should be noted that while the number of initial assessments progressing to referral increased in 2020/21, the actual number of children is lower than the previous two years.

Ending domestic abuse

Referrals

In terms of agency identification, this varies across the agencies, however, it has already been identified that there was an overall decrease of **14.36%** in the identification of all victims from 2018/19 – 2020/21.



With regard to Homelessness identification, data for 2018/19 was not available due to system and recording functionality, however, it is noted that there was an increase of 133% from 2019/20 to 2020/21 - 6 to 14 victims. As of July 2021, there have been 14 victims identified since March 2021. This is showing a significant increase in the number of domestic abuse victims requesting homelessness assistance.

Marac

At Marac, the most high risk cases are discussed. The recommended number of cased for Rutland is 60 per year, based on the SafeLives recommendation of 40 cases per 10,000 adult female population. The table below shows the number of cases heard, inclusive of repeat cases, per year and the number of children within those households.

Year	Number of Cases	Number of Children
2018/19	33	54
2019/20	22	35
2020/21	16	18



Ending domestic abuse

*Inclusive of Whole Family Data

Police Data

2018/19



	Rutland	Leicestershire Police	East Midlands	MSF1	MSF2	England and Wales
DA Crimes & Incidents	335	21,113	92,718	20,412	37,602	1,316,800
Crimes & Incidents Per 1000 population		19	19	17	19	22
DA Crimes	222	14,606	54,615	11,130	22,504	746,219
Crimes per 1000		13	11	9	11	13
% of all crimes recorded		16%	15%	13%	14%	14%

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2019/20



DA Crimes & Incidents	335	20,433	99,456	21,073	36,706	1,288,018
Crimes & Incidents Per 1000 population		19	21	18	18	23
DA Crimes	248	14,896	66,611	12,505	24,203	758,941
Crimes per 1000		14	14	11	12	13
% of all crimes recorded		16%	15%	15%	17%	15%

Ending domestic abuse

<u>Domestic abuse in England and Wales - Data Tool - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</u>

Police Data

The tables above show the incidents and crimes reported in Rutland, across Leicestershire Police force and compared to the East Midlands, two Most Similar Forces and across England and Wales.

The comparison data is not currently available for the 2020/21 period however we know in Rutland there were **330** DA Crimes & Incidents and **212** DA Crimes during that time.

In 2018/19 Rutland accounted for **0.015**% of all DA crimes and incidents across Leicestershire Police. This increased slightly to **0.016**% in 2019/20 however the overall number of DA crimes and incidents recorded across Leicestershire Police reduced by **3.22**%.

The number of all DA crimes and incidents reported in Rutland remains stable across the 3 years. There is an increase of **11.7%** in the Humber of crimes recorded from 2018/19 to 2019/20 however this decreases in 2020/21 by **14.5%**.

In 2018/19 66.2% of all DA crimes and incidents recorded in Rutland were classed as crimes, increasing to 74% in 2019/20.

Leicestershire Police DA crimes and incidents recorded is in keeping with the East Midlands and MSFs at **19** per 1000 population in 2018/19 however this is lower than England and Wales which is **22** per 1000. For 2019/20, the figure for Leicestershire Police remains stable at **19** per 1000 but the figure for the East Midlands has increased to **21** per 1000 and England and Wales to **23**.

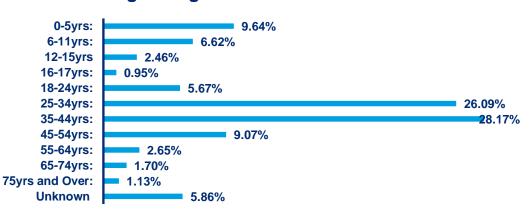
The number of DA crimes recorded is higher than the MSFs and East Midlands yet in line with England and Wales in 2018/19. In 2019/20, it remains higher than the MSFs and slightly higher than England and Wales.

There were no domestic homicides in Rutland, during the time period this needs assessment relates to.

Ending domestic abuse

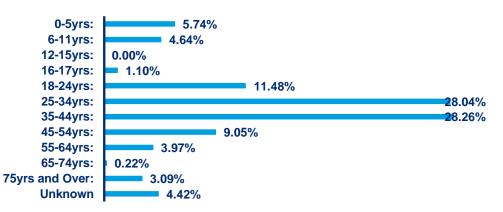
Age

Age Range of Victims 2018 -2019



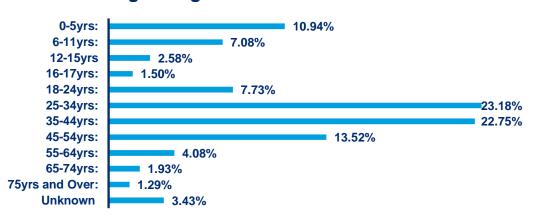
84

Age Range of Victims 2020 - 2021



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Age Range of Victims 2019 - 2020

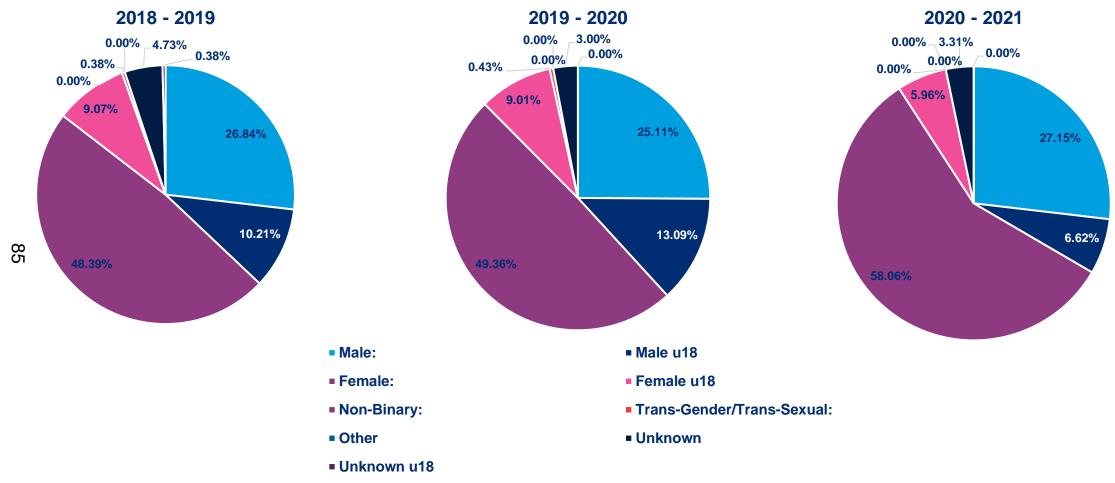


The number of child victims identified has varies over the 3 years. In 2018/19, 19.67% of victims were under 18, increasing to 22.10% in 2019/20 and decreasing to 11.48% in 2020/21. The highest age category across all 3 years is 0-5 accounting for 49% of all child victims in 2018/19, 49% in 2019/20 and 50% in 2020/21.

For adult victims, the two highest categories across the 3 years are 25-34 years and 35-44 years. In addition, the number of 18-24 year olds has increased year on year from **5.67%** of all victims in 2018/19, **7.73%** in 2019/20 and **11.48%** in 2020/21.

The number of older victims has also increased having more than doubled from 2019/20 to 2020/21.

Gender



The charts above shows the overall gender split for all victims including children. As previously mentioned, due to Children's Social Care Initial Assessment data capturing Whole Family information, this may also include perpetrator data.

Ending domestic abuse

Gender

This charts on the previous slide shows the overall gender split for all victims.

If we break this down for victims over 18 the data shows –

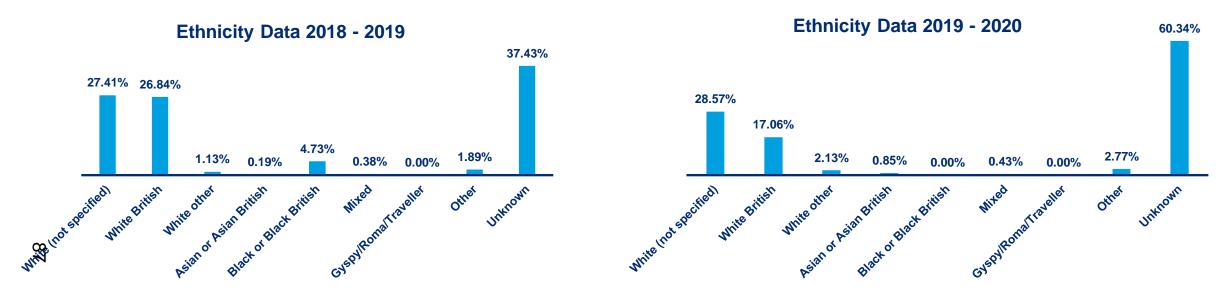
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Female	60.24%	63.36%	65.59%
Male	33.41%	32.23%	30.67%
Transgender/Transexual	0.47%	0.55%	0%
ထ O Unknown	5.88%	3.86%	3.74%

Marac data tells us that **0** cases where the victim is male were heard across all 3 years. The SafeLives recommendations is 5-10% of cases heard are male victim. Across the LLR, **3.7**% of cases heard at Marac were male victims in 2018/19, **3.3**% in 2019/20 and **3.1**% in 2020/21. This is still be below the SafeLives recommendation and has decreased year on year.

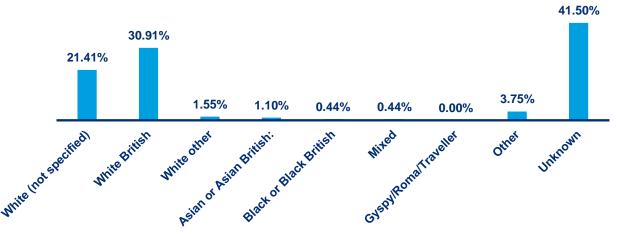
Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, we would estimate a total of **570** male victims have experienced domestic abuse in the last year in Rutland. Data collected shows **123** males were identified by services in 2020-2021.

ONS figures do not include those identifying as trans* and non-binary, estimates suggest that somewhere between 0.35% and 1% of the adult population of the UK identifies as trans*. Research by Galop highlights the high prevalence of domestic abuse experienced by trans* people.

Ethnicity



Ethnicity Data 2020 - 2021



Ending domestic abuse

Ethnicity

The data capture around ethnicity varies across the agencies and years.

Across all 3 years we can see that White or White British is the most prevalent ethnic group. The level of unknown ranges from **37.43%** in 2018/19 to **62.90%** in 2019/20 reducing in 2020/21 to **41.50%**. The significant change in 2019/20 appears to be from Police data where **90.5%** of victim's ethnicity was categorised as unknown.

The total figure, inclusive of children from Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised groups is –



The majority of victims ethnicity was categorised as other. It is important to note that in 2019/20 there were **0** victims whose ethnicity was categorised as Black or Black British, **4** were categorised as Asian or Asian British and **4** were categorised as Mixed heritage

2020/2021

33 - 7.28%

Marac data shows that in 2018/19, **15%** of all cases heard are from a Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised background however there were **0** cases heard in 2019/20 or 2020/21 where the victim was from a Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised background. This is not reflective of the information shown above.

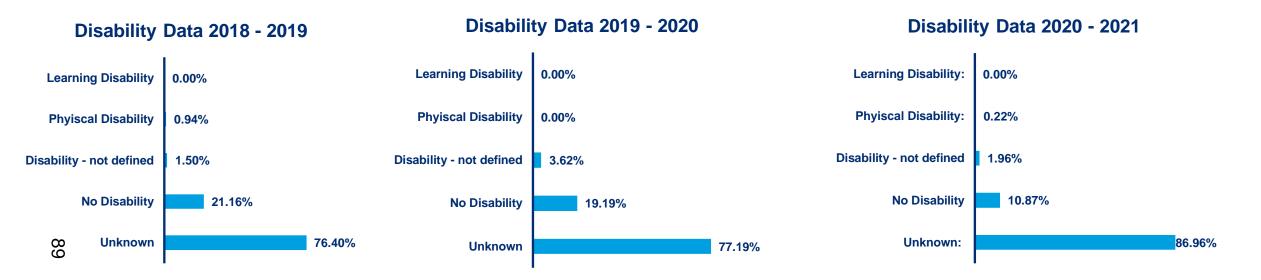
Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, for Intimate Partner Violence only, we would estimate a total of **70** Black, Asian and Racially minoritised victims per year for Rutland.

This does not include domestic abuse victims who experience abuse from non intimate partners such as parents, siblings, HBV etc.

Different ethnic groups have different experiences of services and experience different barriers. It is important to ensure that ethnicity is captured appropriately and accurately, to fully understand the demographic and needs of the area

Ending domestic abuse

Disability



There is a high level of unknown for this demographic. This has increased year on year.

Public Health England (2015) *report that disabled people:

- experience disproportionately higher rates of domestic abuse.
- experience domestic abuse for longer periods of time, and more severe and frequent abuse than non-disabled people.
- encounter differing dynamics of domestic abuse, which may include more severe coercion, control or abuse from carers.



*Disability & Domestic Abuse

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480942/Disability_and_domestic_abuse topic_overview_FINAL.pdf

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Disability

The data regarding disabilities varies across the 3 years and this appears to reflect the agency the victim approached as a number of agencies were unable provide this data.

The total figure, inclusive of children, identified to have a disability is



Across all 3 years, **0** victims were identified as having a learning disability however we know that women with learning disabilities and/or autism are three times more likely to experience domestic abuse than their non-disabled peers.*

Marac data tell us that in 2018/19 and 2019/20 there were **0** cases where the victim had a disability identified. However in 2020/21, **12.5%** of cases had a disability identified. Whilst this is a huge increase, it is still lower than the SafeLives recommended figure is **19%** and is not reflected in the data shown.

Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, for Intimate Partner Violence only, we would estimate a total of **920** victims per year where a disability is identified for Rutland.

Sexual Identity

The data regarding sexual identity is limited with a minimum of 94.33% victims' sexual identity unknown. Only UAVA were able to provide this data. According to research more than one in four gay men and lesbian women and more than one in three bisexual people report at least one form of domestic abuse since the age of 16*.

The total number of victims where their sexual identify was recorded is -

2018/2019 2019/2020 2020/2021

Usi

Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, for Intimate Partner Violence only, we would estimate a total **210** victims per year who identify as LGB+ in Rutland.

Marac data tell us that that in 2018/19 and 2019/20 there were **0** cases where the victim identified as LGBT+. This increased to **4.5%** of cases in 2019/20 which is within the SafeLives recommended figure of 2.5% - 5.8% and increased further to **6.3%** in 2020/21. This shows that whilst victims are under identified overall, they are represented at Marac.

The significant discrepancy in the expected and actual numbers of victims is most likely due to the lack of statistics being accurately recorded by agencies and organisations.

Socio-economic Characteristics

Data regarding socio-economic characteristics are very limited with the majority unknown.

Leicestershire Police collects data regarding occupation however this is limited for 2018/19 with **91.4%** unknown. For the following years it shows **48.2%** of victims were in employed work in 2019/20 and **33.4%** in 2020/21

Although limited data is currently captured by local agencies about socio economic characteristics, these can have a significant impact on victims' ability to access appropriate services when they need them, for example:



Marital status: divorce and matrimonial rights to a home



Family make up: needs of a single person and those with children



Income: a single person earning more than £35k is not eligible for social housing



Benefits: a victim seeking safe accommodation may experience delays in claiming benefit, resulting in arrears. In addition, the impact in the change of circumstance affecting benefits

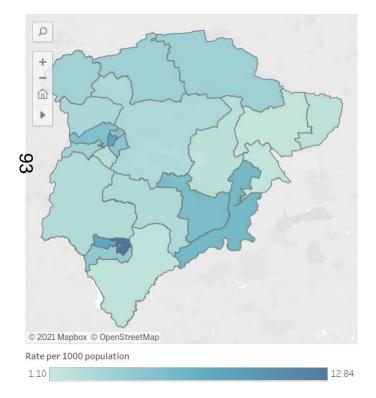
All these characteristics represent the whole person and a whole family, it is, therefore important to capture this information to ensure victims get the right support at the right time.

Ending domestic abuse

Consideration of the relationship between DA and Poverty:

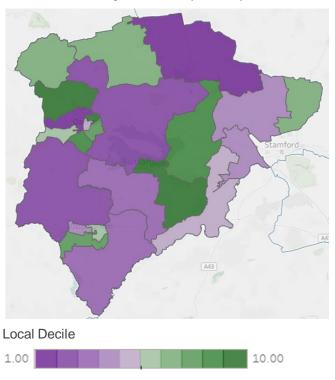
Research in the UK has consistently found vulnerability to DA to be associated with low income, economic strain, and benefit receipt. It is, therefore, useful to consider information available that provides insights in this area: The map on the left illustrates DV prevalence and the map on the right illustrates Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IDM) by local area in RCC

Domestic Offences & Incidents 20/21



- The police victim by ward data provides useful insights into the location and spread of victims
- The 3 wards with highest prevalence of DA victims being in Uppingham East, Oakham Centre and Uppingham West. Uppingham East the darkest shaded on the left is over twice the national average rate of prevalence.
- By local Decile the Map on the right highlights, in dark purple, the local areas on the highest Index of multiple deprivation.





Research pieces such as *Evidence and policy review: Domestic violence and poverty* undertaken by Bristol University will provide RCC with further useful insights. (Organisation (bris.ac.uk)

Ending domestic abuse

Summary of Current Data

The number of victims has decreased across the 3 years with a decrease of **11.9%** from 2018/19 to 2019/20 with a further decrease of **2.78%**. This is not unexpected with the impact of Covid-19 and subsequent restrictions, which have reduced the opportunity for victims to reach out for support in ways that they might have done prior to the pandemic.

We have seen a decrease in reports to all agencies except for adult social care and children's social care in 2020/21, there was also an increased in Police numbers from 2018/19 – 2019/20 before decreasing again.

There has also been an increasing trend with victims requesting homelessness assistance with the same number of victims seeking support in the first 4 months of this year (14) as there were in 2019/20. This increase suggests that more victims may present in need of safe accommodation, which consequently may increase the need for additional support. Rates of domestic homicide across England and Wales have increased dramatically and highlight the potential risk to victims who are unable to escape an abusive home environment, have recently separated or are attempting to separate.

With regard to Marac data, it is important to note that due to the low numbers of referrals, any demographic information may cause a significant variance in trends, however, the actual number of victims may be minimal and, therefore, only a small increase or decrease.

Data provided around protected characteristics has been inconsistent, and in some cases difficult to analyse effectively. However, it is evident that the number of victims with protected characteristics are under identified in data collection by most agencies. This would suggest that there are a significant number of hidden victims within Rutland that are not accessing appropriate support services. Implementing a more robust and consistent approach to data collection will ensure a clearer understanding of local need and enable more effective planning and commissioning of services.

Ending domestic abuse



4. Safe Accommodation Provision

What is Safe Accommodation?

Refuge Accommodation

Specialist safe accommodation - dedicated specialist support to victims with relevant protected characteristics and/or complex needs such as specialist refuges for Black, Asian and racially minoritised, LGBT+, and disabled victims and their children

Dispersed accommodation – Safe self-contained accommodation with the same level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge.

Sanctuary Schemes – may also be called Target Hardening scheme. A survivor centred initiative which aims to enable a victim to remain in their own home by installing additional security to the property and perimeter

Move on and/or second stage accommodation – Accommodation temporarily housing victims, who no clonger require the intensive support provided in a refuge, but still require a lower level of domestic abuse specific support before they move to fully independent and permanent accommodation. May include support accommodation schemes

Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation – A safe place with support given victims an opportunity to spend a temporary period of time to consider and make decisions in an environment which is self-contained and safe

Safe accommodation is not generic temporary accommodation which is not solely dedicated to providing a safe place to stay for victims of domestic abuse. It is important to note that those experiencing Domestic Abuse may well be in standard temporary accommodation but may not have been identified as such or may have been placed in this accommodation due to the Homelessness Duty.



Ending domestic abuse

Safe Accommodation Provision

Service	Provider	Commissioner	Description	Referral Pathway
Dispersed Accommodation	Wall Action & Longhurst Group	Grant Funded	9 dispersed units provided by Longhurst Group (Housing Provider)	Referral to be made by agency or self referral to UAVA
Sanctuary Scheme	24/7 Locks	via UAVA	Installation of security items by RSL maintenance teams, some of materials are provided by the Safer Rutland Partnership. The police complete visits and install budget to mid-range security items (window alarms, etc.) normally purchased by the Safer Rutland Partnership.	Referral to be made by agency or self referral to UAVA

There are currently **9** safe accommodation spaces in Rutland. However these spaces are available to all those who access UAVA services and therefore available LLR wide. The Council of Europe* recommendation is 1 family place per 10,000 population. The population of Rutland is 39,927 therefore the recommended number is **4** spaces.

Whilst the current provision available in Rutland is at the recommended level, these are available as part of the UAVA contract and should be viewed in the context of the overall numbers across the LLR. The total population of the whole LLR

is **1,100,306.** Therefore the recommended number of safe accommodation spaces across the LLR is **110**.

We have not been provided with data regarding the number of sanctuary scheme referrals, therefore, we are unable to provide any analysis regarding this.

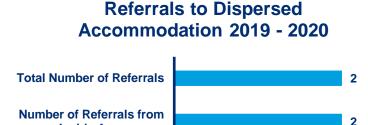
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Referrals to Safe Accommodation*



Number of Unsuccessful

Referrals/Access Denied



Referrals to Dispersed Accommodation 2020 - 2021



UAVA is the 'Front Door' for all Domestic Abuse referrals across the LLR, therefore, all referrals for Safe Accommodation go via this route.

Inside Area

Number of Successful

Referrals

Number of Unsuccessful

Referrals/Access Denied

Referrals for Safe Accommodation decreased by 60% 2018/19 – 2019/20. However there was a significant increase of 550% from 2019/20 – 2020/21.

In 2018/19 40% of referrals were successful. 0 referrals were successful in 2019/20 while 61% were successful in 2020/21.

The average length of stay in Safe Accommodation across LLR ranges from 102 days in 2018/19 to 110 in 2019/20 and finally to 113 in 2020/21. Consideration to be given for recovery support that will enable survivors to move on to suitable accommodation and free up space for higher risk victims to access.

The source of referrals has consistently been the Local Helpline and DA Services. The exception to this is in 2020/21 when there was 1 referral from Housing Services, 1 from the local authority and 3 other.

The data provided did not specify the number of referrals from Out of Area therefore we have not been able provide a figure for this.

Ending domestic abuse *As per Wall Action Data

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Denied Access to Service

Not all victims who are referred to Safe Accommodation services will be able to access them for a number of reasons.

Overall in 2018/19 60% of referrals were unsuccessful, increasing to 100% in 2019/20 before reducing to 39% in 2020/21.

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Ineligible for support – 1	Client does not want support – 1	Client disengaged – 2
Only wants Leicester/shire – 1	Client declined – 1	Client does not want support – 1
		Needs better met elsewhere (DA service) – 1
		Unable to contact client - 1

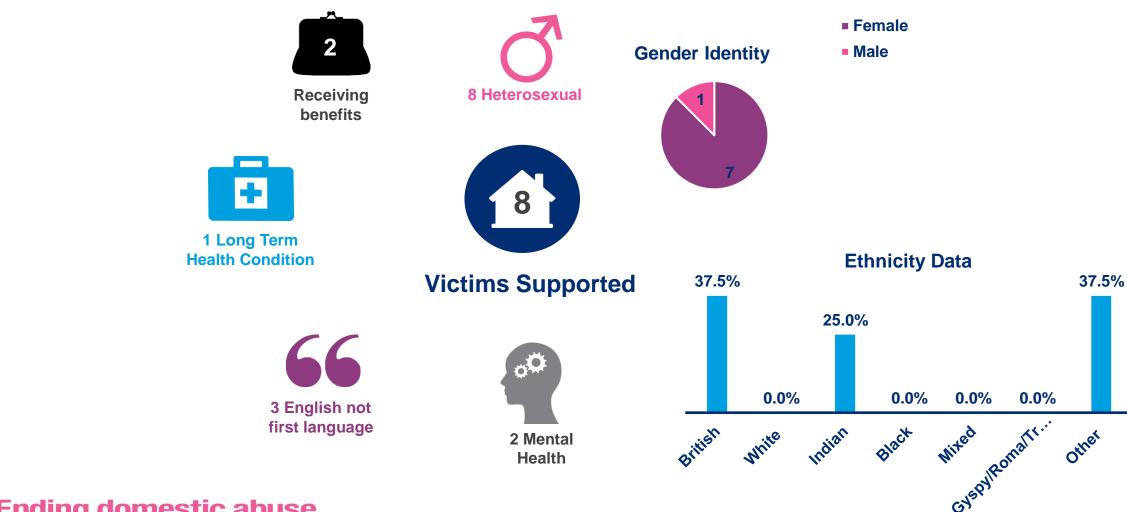
Regarding the client not wanting support, client declined and client disengaged there may be some relevance in the location of safe accommodation and how appropriate this might be for victims, particularly if they have children at school or need to travel to work. Further exploration and understanding of these refusal reasons should be considered.

Consideration should be given to perpetrator management as set out in the <u>Domestic Abuse Draft Statutory Guidance Framework</u>, which could enable victims and children to remain in their homes and communities, reducing disruption and trauma already experienced

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Dispersed Accommodation 2020 - 2021

We do not have any data for 2018/19 – 2019/20 so we can only provide analysis for 2020/21 figures.



Ending domestic abuse

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Dispersed Accommodation Overview 2020 - 2021

The data provided regarding ethnicity is not in a standard format and is not truly reflective of a person's ethnicity or their needs. Therefore, it does not allow for analysis.

Of the 3 victims who identified that English was not their first language, their primary language was Gujarati (2) and Arabic (1). With regard to Religion/Belief, 4 identified to be of the Muslim faith, 2 as Hindu and 1 Christian. Only 1 victim's immigration status was recorded which stated, 'Indefinite Leave to Remain'.

Support for victims where English is not their first language and where there may be additional barriers due to immigration status must be provided including interpreters and specialist immigration support.

With regard to Mental Health, 2 victims identified as having a mental health need and one as having a long-term health need. This is over a quarter of victims accessing dispersed accommodation.

We do not have any data regarding the ages of victims and we do not have data regarding the number of children within the dispersed accommodation or within households which have accessed the sanctuary scheme.

However, when we consider that children account for at least a quarter of all victims and children aged 0-5 account for almost half of all child victims, it is likely that a high number will also access safe accommodation.

Support for children, such as play therapy and other therapeutic support, must be available in all forms of safe accommodation including Sanctuary Schemes/Target Hardening. Support for victims as Parents must also be available.

It is also fundamental that support is received from statutory services such as midwifery, health visitors and school nurse whilst victims are within safe accommodation.

Ending domestic abuse

Supported Housing: National Statement of Expectations

The National Statement of Expectations (NSE) was developed in collaboration between the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) with input from local councils and the supported housing sector. Together, they are committed to seeing delivery of good quality supported housing which meets residents' needs and represents good value for money.

The NSE provides a mechanism for establishing the vision for accommodation standards, quality, and value for money. The NSE is not a statutory requirement, and to date there has been no definitive set of guidelines on what should reasonably be expected from the accommodation element of supported housing. However, it is hoped that organisations involved in the provision of supported housing will use, adopt, and find the principles and examples of best practice helpful.

In supported housing, accommodation is provided alongside support, supervision, or care to help people live as independently as possible in the community, including for people fleeing domestic abuse with their children.

In order to deliver the ambitions of the NSE local authorities should work alongside providers and local delivery partners to:

- Assess local demand and plan effectively
- Ensure safe and good quality supported housing
- Ensure supported housing provides good value for money

Ending domestic abuse

Women's Aid Annual Audit 2021

The annual audit presents information on the provision and usage of domestic abuse services (both accommodation and community support services) in England, mainly focusing on the financial year 2019/20. This year the report also includes a section on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Key findings from the audit included:

- •It is estimated (based on the On Track data collection) that 10,592 women and 12,710 children were supported by a refuge in 2019/20.
- •3,935 refuge spaces in England, falling short of the number of spaces recommended by the Council of Europe by 1,694, which represents a 30% shortfall^[1].
- •It is estimated that a total of 24,748 referrals were received by refuges. This means that 57% of all referrals received for refuge were rejected. The main reason for rejection was a lack of space or capacity with 18% of all referrals received rejected for this reason, this also equates to 32% of all rejected referrals being rejected due to lack of space or capacity.
- →•Only 26% of refuges commissioned by local authorities indicated that the funding covered all aspects of the support staff costs.
- ≈63% of women in refuge services had children and 6% were pregnant
 - •88% of service users had experienced emotional abuse, 67% had experienced jealous or controlling behaviour.
 - •49% of service users in a refuge had support needs around mental health
 - •48% of service users in a refuge reported feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts because of the abuse.
 - •26% of women at refuge services have a disability; most common were mental health disabilities, 7% had a physical disability.
 - •Of service users who were not British nationals, just over half (54.5%) were able to access public funds.
 - •Only 4% of vacancies posted on Routes to Support^[2] could consider women who had no recourse to public funds.
 - •Under half of refuge vacancies can accommodate a woman with two children and less than one in five for a woman with three children. These statistics highlight that nationally there are barriers for some women to enter refuge.

This includes women who are NRPF and who are a parent and who are likely to have mental health needs requiring sufficient therapeutic support. We also know that people with a disability are more likely to experience domestic abuse. The small percentage of women in refuge with a physical disability, is likely not reflective of demand from this group and impacted by the availability of accessible accommodation.

Ending domestic abuse

Whole Housing Approach

SafeLives supports the DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) Whole Housing Approach which aims to improve the housing options and outcomes for all experiencing domestic abuse. It suggests a range of housing options and specialist initiatives to give victims and survivors the choice to relocate or remain in their existing property and for agencies to work together collaboratively.

This diagram shows the model and it's 12 parts. The lighter circles represent the temporary accommodation settings and tenure types with the darker circles representing the housing options and specialist initiatives to support victims to either relocate or remain in their home.

Further information available here https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/what-we-do/whole-housing-approach/whole-hc



Ending domestic abuse



5. Survivor Voice

Survivor Voice

"We've walked through fire to get our voices back; we're not going to give them up now." Ursula, Pioneer

SafeLives are committed to placing people with lived experience at the heart of all we do, valuing internal and external survivors' experience as an asset.

Working together, we can aggregate and amplify survivors' voices and interweave authenticity and independence throughout all our work. By listening and responding to views that are different to our own, professionals and survivors can critically assess and address challenges together. To do this authentically we support survivors to tell their truth and speak with an unmediated voice.

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Case Studies

The needs assessment requires a review of case studies to understand a victims' journey, support required, received and the outcome. Three case studies have been provided by services within Rutland CC and below we provide a summary of key insights shared:

Entry Point:

- •Refuge waiting list to Dispersed 2
- ·School safeguarding to Social services, referral into (Leicestershire) Womens Aid

Victim/Survivor Needs

- •All had 3 children, and 1 was pregnant
- Physical disability, Support around pregnancy, Housing support, DA support.
- English not first language interpreter needed
- Support around DA and the impact.

Support Given:

- Support around accessing refuge
- Support into dispersed accommodation
- Arabic Interpreter provided
- Emotional and Wellbeing support
- Practical support (i.e. managing finances)

Outcome:

- •'Client has been placed in refuge accommodation closer to her chosen area / family & friends, away from harm and DA.'
- •'Client is now in a safe place away from harm and DA'.
- •'Clients confidence has grown, more independent, has started to make friends and applying for jobs and volunteer work. Clients' housing application has been successful.

Ending domestic abuse

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6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Data Collection

Rutland CC recognised that submission of relevant data was critical for the completion of a comprehensive needs assessment and have been supportive throughout this process. However, there have been areas where data capture is lacking including Health and Housing Providers being unable to submit any data. Rutland CC and the LPB need to ensure that an appropriate and consistent approach to collecting data is adopted across all partner agencies to confirm that all demographics are captured. This will provide a clear understanding of victim's characteristics, areas of multiple disadvantage and complex needs, which will in turn, inform a comprehensive strategy for domestic abuse and ensure that services delivered can meet identified needs. We have, throughout this report, using Safelives recognised best practice guidelines, in conjunction with tools such as the DV prevalence tool, made recommendations regarding the expected levels of services reach and provision. We recommend that these are considered as part of Rutland CC's DA commissioning strategy.

Areas of key identification are -

- Ethnicity
- Different ethnic groups have different experiences of services and experience different barriers. It is important to ensure that ethnicity is captured appropriately in order to fully understand the demographic and needs of your area
- Sexual Identity
 - Those in LGBT+ relationships face additional barriers to reporting and accessing services. It is important to ensure that this information is asked and captured in order to fully understand the demographic and needs of your area
- Disability
 - Data is inconsistently captured regarding disability and may be stored in different systems. In order to fully support victims and survivors we
 must ask and record this information in a format that is easily accessible to professionals to ensure victims and survivors are able to access and
 receive appropriate support
- Those who are harmed and those who harm
 - To ensure that those who are harmed and those who harm are captured appropriately to ensure the correct support is provided
- Socio Economic status
 - Rutland need to develop and agree a consistent approach for capturing socio economic data across the local area for commissioned and non-commissioned services.

Ending domestic abuse

Provision of Support and capacity of commissioned services

Currently Rutland has the recommended number of safe accommodation provision and in fact exceeds this recommendation. However these are available as part of the UAVA contract and should be viewed in the context of the overall numbers across the LLR. We are unable to comment on the Sanctuary Scheme due to lack of data. We recommend that this be an area that is explored further to understand who is accessing the service and their needs. It is important to remember that Sanctuary Schemes and dispersed properties are only Safe Accommodation when specialist DA support is an integral part of this. Therefore, appropriate support must be provided to victims and survivors using a holistic approach to ensure their needs are not treated in isolation but seen in the context of a whole person.

Children

- There are a high proportion of child victims aged from 0-5 in Rutland CC which suggests that children are experiencing trauma at a very early, crucial stage of their development. Prevention and early identification need to remain a priority as well as continuing therapeutic support for child victims
 - Children are now recognised in law as victims in their own right. It is therefore imperative that all data around children is captured. This is to ensure that the needs of the child are assessed, understood, met and appropriate support and services are in place for the whole family and linked in with other relevant strategies
 - Appropriate support for children should be available and accessible in all safe accommodation and provided by dedicated children's workers.
 It is noted from the case studies that while 3 families had children, there is no reference to support or outcomes for these children and young people.
 - The number of children identified has declined significantly over the 3 years. Possible reasons for this should be explored to assist with correct identification in the future. This data should be monitored going forward, and training provided to those working with children and young people to identify child victims and offer appropriate support

Ending domestic abuse

Housing and Homelessness

Where victims are unable to access Safe Accommodation, they may be offered alternative temporary accommodation.

- Consideration must be given to the importance of specialist women's provision, not only for Safe Accommodation but for all forms of temporary accommodation. Mixed sex provision for those experiencing DA and VAWG can lead to victims feeling unsafe and have a negative impact on recovery.
- Consideration must also be given to those who are street homeless and hidden homeless. We know from our SafeLives Safe at Home
 report that domestic abuse, even when present, is not always the cause of homelessness; it is often experienced alongside other forms of
 disadvantage that may contribute to homelessness. Domestic abuse can also be experienced by those who are already homeless.
- Further monitoring of the increasing requests for support from Homelessness Teams. Consideration should be given to providing a dedicated domestic abuse specialist within the Housing Options and Homelessness service to offer both domestic abuse and housing advice and ______ support to victims and colleagues

Performance Monitoring

LPB to complete dip sampling and case audits on those accessing safe accommodation on a quarterly basis

No Recourse to Public Funds

 Ensure staff are aware of the Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) Concession scheme for those who have been granted leave to enter as a spouse or partner of a British person

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Understanding the Needs of Those from Minoritised communities:

- The statutory guidance accompanying the DA Act 21 states that Local Areas should
 - "have embedded, or have readily available, input from specialist agencies and 'by-and-for' services that have a proven track record of supporting victims of domestic abuse and who are aware and experienced in working with male and female victims with protected characteristics, including being from an ethnic minority, being disabled, LGBTQ+ or from a particular religion or faith.
- Rutland CC and their LPB could consult with specialist by and for services agencies IMKAAN; Southall Black Sisters; The Angelou Centre, Galop, The Refugee Council and Stay Safe East regarding additional support for victims who face multiple disadvantage and challenges to access services. Agencies include -
 - IMKAAN
 - Southall Black Sisters
 - The Angelou Centre
 - Galop
 - The Refugee Council
 - Stay Safe East
 - Rights of Women

Ending domestic abuse



7. Appendix A

Data Submissions

Data was supplied by the following agencies

- Leicestershire Police
- Rutland Children Social Care & Early Help
- Rutland Adult Social Care
- Rutland Housing Options Team
- UAVA Insights Data
- → Wall Action

Ending domestic abuse

Report No: 33/2022 PUBLIC REPORT

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24 February 2022

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE AS AT END OF QUARTER THREE

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

Strategic Aim: Pr	otecting the vulnerable			
Exempt Information		No		
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:		Cllr D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services		
Contact Officer(s):	Jonathan Weller, Business Intelligence Manager Dawn Godfrey, Strategic Director for		01572 758233 jweller@rutland.gov.uk 01572 758358	
Ward Councillors	Children's Se	•	dgodfrey@rutland.gov.uk	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Notes year-to-date performance information as at the end of quarter three (April – December) 2021-22.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a table showing the key performance indicators (KPIs) for children's services for consideration and comment by the committee. Key points related to the data are also discussed in a summary commentary.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The table shows performance against this year's target using a red/amber/green system, along with a trend line showing the last four quarterly positions.
- 2.2 Some measures are included to provide a picture of current demand for services and therefore no targets or trends are shown.

3 PERFORMANCE DATA

3.1 Table showing 2021-22 performance as at end of quarter three (April – December).

Service/ KPI name	2020-21 outturn	2021-22 end of Q3	2021-22 target		Trend – last four quarters
Contacts and referrals					
Number of contacts received	1,524	1,029	-	-	-
Number of referrals received	248	97	-	-	-
% re-referrals within last 12 months	38%	14%	25%		\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Assessments					
Number of single assessments	261	110	-	-	-
% single assessments completed within 45 days	91%	99%	90%		
% children seen as part of an assessment	92%	100%	95%		
Number of CSE cases	9	4	-	-	-
Number of children missing from home/care episodes	27	5	-	-	-
Virtual visits					
% of statutory visits carried out virtually (started March 2020 due to covid-19)	17%	6%	-	-	-
Children in need (CIN)					
Number of CIN	85	26	-	-	-
% CIN seen in timescale	99%	100%	90%		
% CIN reviews completed in timescale	80%	95%	90%		
Child protection (CP)					
Number of CP cases	8	9	-	-	-
% children subject to CP plan seen in timescale	100%	100%	100%		• • • •
% CP reviews on time	100%	90%	100%	8	
% core groups held on time	97%	100%	100%		• • • •
Children looked after (CLA)					
Number of CLA Cases	35	25	-	-	-
% CLA seen in timescale	100%	100%	100%		• • • •
% CLA reviews on time	93%	98%	100%		
% children placed in non-LA placements	31%	56%	40%		
Number of in-house fostering households	11	10	-	-	-
Care leavers					
% Care leavers in appropriate accommodation	100%	100%	100%		• • • •

Service/ KPI name	2020-21 outturn	2021-22 end of Q3	2021-22 target		Trend – last four quarters
% Care leavers in EET	79%	81%	80%		
% Care leavers we are in touch with	100%	100%	100%	(
Early Help and SEND					
Number of current active early help cases (children)	95	69	-	-	-
% of all cases closed in year stepped up to social care	14%	3%	5%	>	/
Total number of children open to CWD	15	15	-	-	-
Education inclusion partnership					
Number of referrals since launch (<i>launched Feb</i> 2020)	55	117	-	-	-
RCC Staff					
Children's Services staff turnover rate	3.7%	8.6%	-	-	-

4 COMMENTARY

- 4.1 Improved re-referral rates (14% compared to 38% last year) continue to be a feature of performance, quarter three seeing just 12% (4 out of 33 cases) re-referrals. Audits of re-referrals continue and show that threshold applications are generally correct. Any learnings from audits are applied to practice and will remain a focus to sustain the improvement seen this year. For comparison, re-referral rates average 25% regionally and 23% nationally.
- 4.2 Assessments completed in timescale stand at 99% (109 out of 110), continuing the long-term trend of improvement. A live data reporting system and ongoing management scrutiny is helping to sustain this performance level. The English average for assessment completion is 88% within timescale.
- 4.3 Children seen as part of an assessment has again been 100%, after dropping below target last year due to differences in the recording of virtual home visits during lockdown. Social workers continue to be supported to engage with children and families safely and there has been an increase in children having face to face visits this year.
- 4.4 Work continues with the children who have been missing to reduce these occurrences. The service is developing a new recording mechanism for missing children to ensure robust data capture and analysis.
- 4.5 Children in need (CIN) seen within timescale is 100% (26 out of 26) for the second consecutive quarter. This continues the trend of improvement from last year, helped by continued management oversight and use of a live data reporting system. CIN reviews completed within timescale is 95% for the year, better than the target. Earlier in the year, several reviews outside of timescale included some avoidable mistakes relating to date and diary planning. This was addressed with individual social workers and performance since August has been 100% every month for this KPI.

- 4.6 All children subject to a child protection plan were seen in timescale and all core groups were held on time for the fifth consecutive quarter. Our current child protection case number per 10,000 children is the third lowest in the country.
- 4.7 Children looked after (CLA) seen in timescale is 100%, meeting target and maintaining the standard set last year. CLA in non-local authority placements is currently 56% (14 children out of 25). This is outside our 40% target and includes recently arrived unaccompanied child asylum seekers in special provision outside of Rutland. CLA reviews held on time is 98% this year (65 out of 66), the one review missing target being in April. This continues a long-term improvement trend (93% last year, 84% the year before).
- 4.8 Our CLA rate per 10,000 children is 32, the fifth lowest rate in England. For comparison, the regional and national averages are 64 and 67 per 10,000 children.
- 4.9 100% of care leavers are in appropriate accommodation. The regional and national averages for this KPI are 90% and 88%. The accommodation ranges from semi-independent living, social housing and flat shares to private rentals.
- 4.10 81% of care leavers (30 out of 37) are currently in employment, education or training, meaning Rutland remains the best performing local authority in England for this KPI. A milestone was achieved in quarter one this year, where we hit our own challenging 80% target for the first time in almost two years. For comparison, the regional average for care leavers in EET is 55% and the national average 52%.
- 4.11 The percentage of early help cases closed and stepped up to social care this year is 3%, or two cases. In both cases the appropriate thresholds had been met.
- 4.12 Information on the number of referrals to education inclusion partnership (EIP) is now part of this report. All primary schools are included, and referrals are most prevalent in years 4 and 5. Of the 117 primary referrals, 89 related to boys and 28 girls. Most referrals continue to be based on social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) or autism needs, a smaller number being for ADHD and 'other' reasons. Secondary school EIP support continues, and monthly risk/case discussion meetings are established with Casterton and UCC. The offer of professional development in relation to SEMH has been accepted by all schools.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 Not applicable.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 Not applicable.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The number of children looked after can have a significant impact on the council's budget. As a result of improved social care practice, the number of children looked after has reduced over the past 12 months resulting in a forecasted underspend at quarter three in relation to this area of the Children's budget of c£250k for the year.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 There are no legal and governance considerations.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks/issues to the rights and freedoms of natural persons.

10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed because there are no service, policy or organisational changes being proposed.

11 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no community safety implications.

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications.

13 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 It is recommended that the committee continues to receive a regular performance report on children's services which will enable them to consider performance in key areas and areas for further scrutiny.

14 BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

15 APPENDICES

15.1 There are no appendices.

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.



Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 21/22					
Meeting Date	Publication Date	Proposed Item	Why	Format	
24 Jun 21	17 Jun	Item 1: Input into the new Rutland Children and Young People's Strategic Plan / Children's service offer. • Provide an update on the development of the Rutland Children and Young People's Strategic Plan • Present an overview of the key priorities and the intended outcomes.	The Children's Service offer will inform the strategic plan.	Presentation and workshop by Interim DCS and Transformation and Assurance Lead	
		Item 2: Review and approval of the annual work plan Item 3: Election of vice chair	Forward Planning -	Report -	
		Item 4: Q4 KPI (April – March)		Report from Business Intelligence Manager	
		Item 1: Election of vice chair	-	-	
30 Sep 21	22 Sep 21	 Item 2: Impact of COVID on educational outcomes: What steps are being considered / taken to address academic catch up? What steps are being considered / taken to provide mental-health support for our young people. 	Source, annual work plan Public Concern	Written report from Head of Learning and Skills	
		Item 3: Update from Children's Services Improvement Board	Progress report on OFSTED report	Presentation from Head of Service - Children's Social Care	

16 Dec 21	8 Dec 21	Item 4: Q1 KPI (April – June) Item 1: Review of Commissioned Services and Youth Offending • List and costs of current CYP commissioned services and start / renewal date. • How oversight is managed / has contract been met? - What flexibility does the service provide? - Value for money against what has been delivered.	For Information Proposed during scrutiny meeting 26/09/2020.	Report from Business Intelligence Manager Report from Head of Early Help SEND and Inclusion, Head of Children's Social Care and Head of Commissioning
		Item 2: SEND Recovery plan projects update	Budgetary and wellbeing concerns	Report from Head of Early Help SEND and Inclusion
		For information only: Q2 KPI (July – September)	For Information	Report from Business Intelligence Manager
26 Jan 22	18 Jan	ITEM: Joint Scrutiny of the Budget	Statutory	Report from Director - Resources
		Item 1: Development of Family Hubs and the Early Help Offer	Budgetary and wellbeing concerns	Report from Head of Early Help SEND and Inclusion
24 Feb 22	17 Feb	Item 2: Domestic Abuse Strategy: update	Legislation Change and wellbeing concerns	Report from Director
		For information only: Q3 KPI (October - December)	For Information	Report from Business Intelligence Manager
21 Apr 22	14 Apr	Item 1: Children's Services: Update including Self- Assessment & Ofsted visit	Public Concern	Report from Director

	Item 2: SEND Service Update & Review Including performance and SENDIASS		Report from Bernadette Caffrey	
	Item 3: Provision of Speech and Language Services		Mark Roberts	
	For information only:	For	Report from	
	Q4 KPI (January - March)	Information	Business	
			Intelligence	
			Manager	
Forward Planning				

KPI update: Throughout the year the KPI data for the previous quarter will be circulated directly to the Committee Members. Scrutiny chair will discuss with the Committee to determine if there is anything that is of concern and warrants further action.

Items Distributed to Scrutiny for Information

August

DSG SEND Recovery Plan Update – from Schools' Forum

Final draft of the Children's Services offer – final discussion and approval

Possible Joint Meeting with Adults & Health	Item 1 - Gaps in the provision of children's health including dentistry (Following up from joint scrutiny meeting on the 21/01/2021)	Public Concern	Jan Harrison Designated Nurse Safeguarding Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Neil King Head of Safeguarding Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) Michael Clayton Head of Safeguarding University Hospitals Leicester (UHL)
	Item 2 - Provision of Speech and Language Services		Mark Roberts

